Philippine Idol

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Slim pickings in Davao for 'Idols'; good ones in Cebu, says Pilita

SPORTS/ A24

Zidane fuels French run in World Cup

WORLD / A20

Israel attacks Gaza to rescue teenage soldier, 1st major offensive since pullout

BUSINESS/ B1

Peso falls to a new year low of P53.575 to $1

'Men with older brothers, same ma likely to be gay'

SUS! CHUBA CHUBA!

A MAN'S SEXUAL ORIentation appears to be determined in the mother's womb, a new study suggests.

And having several older brothers increases the likelihood of a man

MEN WITH/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, June 29, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 201 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Isabela mayor gunned down in QC

By DJ Yap

MAYOR DELFINITO ALBANO OF ILAgan, Isabela, was known as a down-to-earth politician who would part with his own shoes upon seeing anyone barefoot.

His programs endeared Albano to the townspeople, and, as far as his friends and family knew, he had no enemies.

Apparently they were wrong.

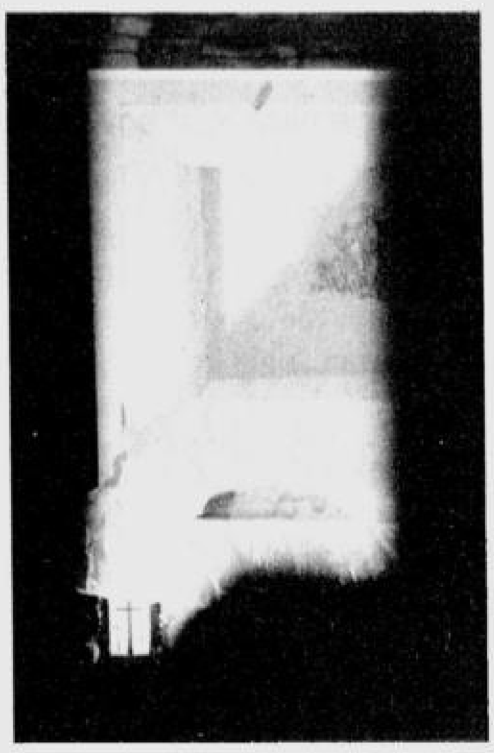
On Tuesday night, Albano, 46, was shot dead by three bonnet-clad gunmen in a well-planned ambush in Quezon City, less than two years after he survived an attempt on his life in his hometown.

Albano sustained more than 20 gunshot wounds and died instantly, police said. He is survived by wife Theresa, two daughters, who are twins, and two sons.

The two-term mayor was in a dark gray Isuzu Bighorn, cruising along Scout Santiago Street, Barangay Laging Handa, on his way to meet a friend when he was blocked by a white Toyota Revo at past 11 p.m. on Tuesday, according to police.

Wielding 9-mm caliber handguns,

ISABELA/ A6



THE VICTIM Delfinito Albano, mayor of Ilagan, Isabela, lies in peace at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. LYN RILLON

Bishop files impeach bid

Iñiguez hit for meddling in gov't affairs

By Michael Lim Ubac

BISHOP DEOGRACIAS IÑIGUEZ yesterday joined the move to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying he hoped that her meeting with Pope Benedict XVI would lead to her "conversion."

Iñiguez is the first member of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to sign the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo. But he stressed that his move was a personal position and did not reflect his stand as a CBCP member.

Iñiguez and his Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya filed the third impeachment complaint against the President in as many days under an opposition strategy to ensure that the

BISHOP/ A15

NOT AGAIN! House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno (seated, left) receives an impeachment complaint against President Arroyo for the third time in as many days. Filed by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez (standing, right) and endorsed by Rep. Etta Rosales (third from right), the same complaint will be refiled every day this week as the opposition does not know for sure when the one-year ban lapses. So, who really knows? JOAN BONDOC

US court OKs $2,000 payment to rights victims

A US COURT HAS AUTHORIZED PARTIAL compensation of $2,000 each to about 7,500 victims of human rights abuses under the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, a lawyer said yesterday.

Judge Manuel Real of the US District Court in Hawaii issued the order on Tuesday, but no immediate payment can be made because the move had been blocked by the Presidential

US COURT/ A4

Prosecution ends cross-examination of Erap; ex-President confident of win

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA wrapped up his testimony on his plunder trial yesterday, smiling and declaring "the truth has finally come, the truth that I'm innocent."

It was Estrada's 11th and last appearance on the witness stand. The trial will resume on July 17 to allow both sides to present more evidence.

Stepping off the witness stand after prosecutors abruptly ended their cross-examination, Estrada told reporters he was confident he would be cleared of charges he amassed P4 billion from illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions and perjury.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio attempted to present a compact

PROSECUTION/ A4

Palace tells Cruz: You're not Pope's spokesman

By Armand N. Nocum

MADRID, SPAIN—TURNING THE TAbles on Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Malacañang accused him of misinterpreting Pope Benedict XVI's statement of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Archbishop (Cruz) is not the spokesperson of the Holy See and (he) must not twist the words of the Holy Father, whose prime concerns are the plight of the poor and the full engagement of the Church in the spiritual realm, not in partisan politics," Press Secretary Bunye said at a media briefing at the Grand Hotel Canarias here.

Bunye is part of the delegation of Ms Arroyo that visited Italy. The President's two-day official visit here starts tomorrow.

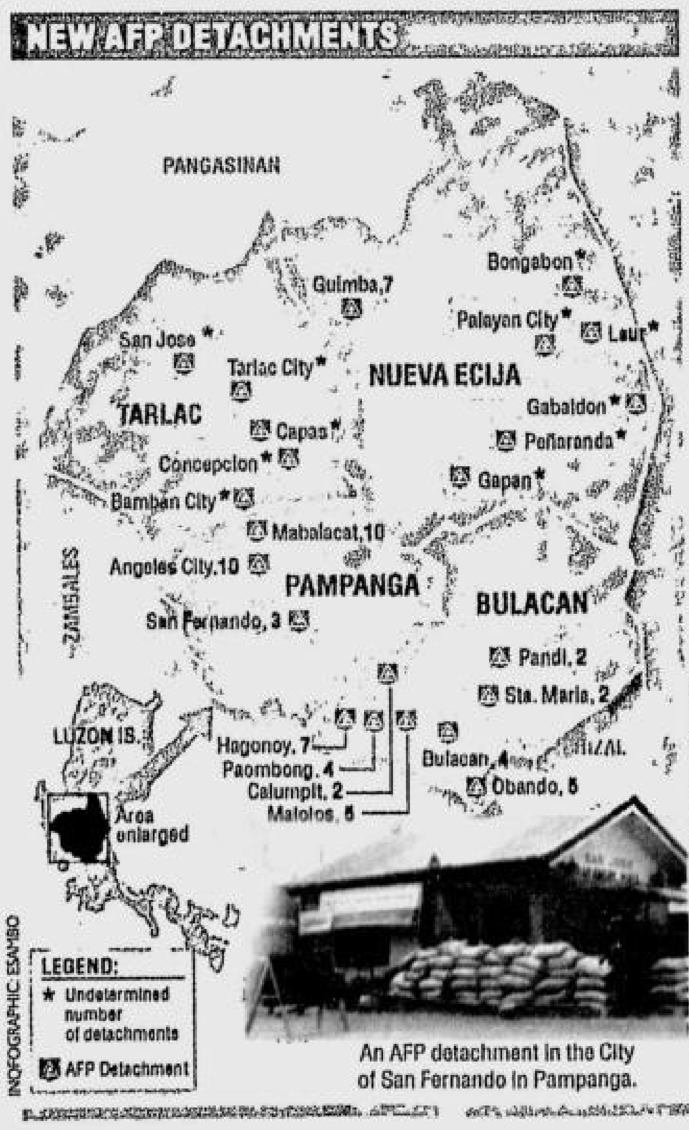
Cruz on Tuesday said that the pat on the back and words of encouragement the Pontiff gave Ms Arroyo at the Vatican on Monday was merely a reaction to her administration's abolition of the death penalty, not an endorsement of her beleaguered presidency.

Cruz said Ms Arroyo and her allies should not read anything beyond Benedict's "well done" statement.

He also said that the Pope knew about the "Hello Garci" and other scandals hounding Ms Arroyo.

"The President's visit to the Vatican

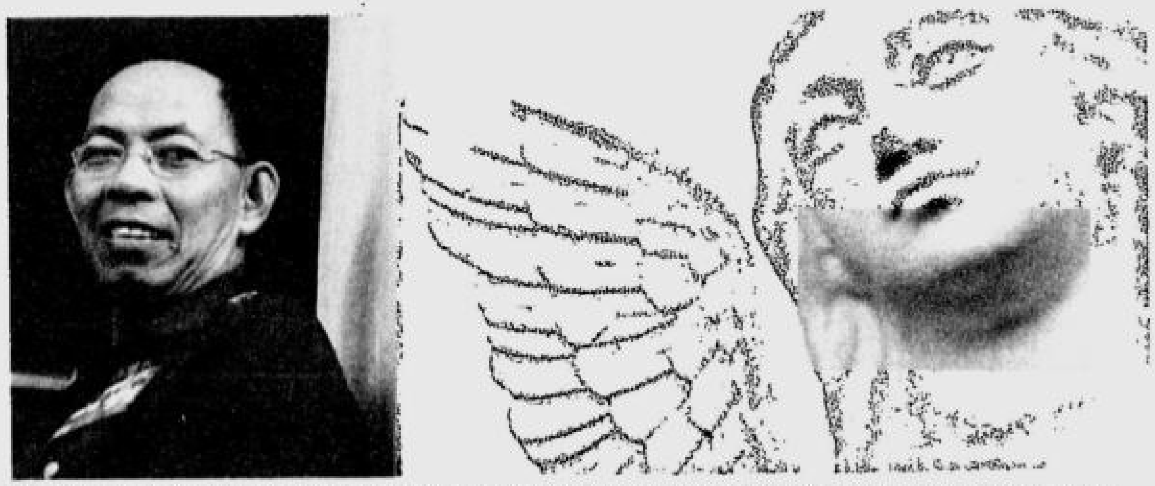
PALACE/ A4



An AFP detachment in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga.

INFOGRAPHIC: ESAMBO

RESEARCH: TONETTE : OREJAS, PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK



WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division, has brought the war to the doorsteps of civilian communities in towns and cities throughout Central Luzon. PDI PHOTO

AFP widens war theater in C. Luzon

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SPECIAL REPORT

LUBAO, PAMPANGA—CAMPED right in the middle of Barangay San Jose Gumi in Lubao, Pampanga, are 18 soldiers, their battle gear in tow.

In this fishing village located 7 km from the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road, the soldiers set up base on a stage beside the barangay hall and in front of a basketball court. On the floor is a jumble of backpacks, combat shoes and sleeping bags. Slung on nails are jackets and shirts to dry as rains hit the area.

Behind the stage, they pitched a tent as a mess hall. Each soldier gets a P60 food budget daily. The tent doubles as sleeping quarters, with five hammocks suspended on rusting poles.

The soldiers arrived on June 21 and settled in the midst of a community of almost 2,600 people.

"*May laman ang baryo* (The village has rebels in it)," says Cpl. Raymundo Batnag, explaining their presence against the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, a breakaway group of the communist New People's Army.

Their leader, T/Sgt. Cris Parang, who has counted 22 years fighting the secessionist war in Mindanao and communist rebel-

AFP WIDENS/ A6

Gov't wants The Hague to expel Joma

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOLLOWING THE ABOLITION OF THE death penalty law, the Arroyo administration is planning to seek the expulsion of Jose Ma. Sison from The Netherlands and force the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines to face murder charges here.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said the recent abolition of the death penalty law had eliminated a major obstacle to the Philippine government's bid to get custody of Sison.

"When I talked to the Dutch ambassador (to the Philippines) more than a year ago, I was told that the Dutch government could not expel Sison because of our death penalty. The Dutch government has a policy of not making available a fugitive of justice to a country that has the death penalty," Ermita told reporters.

"Now that we have abolished the death penalty, can we say that they [Dutch authorities] are ready to expel

GOV'T WANTS/ A6

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COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO PDI RESEARCH/06/28/06 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

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Nograles was reacting to a proposal from Sen. Ralph Recto to end the impasse over the P64 billion that the Senate slashed from the budget which the House wanted restored.

Recto, the chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the cuts could be restored but realigned to improve services in education, health and agriculture sectors, and to build more roads and devise more technologies.

But Nograles said the congressmen would want to know where the senators would want to put the money.

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Globe's formal complaint came on the heels of a meeting held on Tuesday between representatives of the mobile phone rivals and NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis.

Smart's spokesperson Ramon Isberto did not immediately reply to a query about its rival's complaint.

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Estafa raps vs 2 lawyers pressed

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT has denied the appeal of lawyers Luis Lokin Jr. and Salvador Hizon to reverse its recommendation that they be charged with estafa for allegedly depriving their law partners of their share of attorney's fees in a case that they had won.

In a resolution dated June 15, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez affirmed his January 2006 ruling recommending that Lokin and Hizon be charged with estafa for not paying their partners Demaree Raval and Rolex Suplico their share of attorney's fees amounting to P33.79 million each for a case that they won for their client, Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc.

Lokin, Hizon, Raval and Suplico, who is now a congressman for Iloilo, were partners in the Raval Suplico and Lokin Law Offices which entered into an agreement with Aerocom in 1994 to recover the latter's sequestered shares in several companies.

According to Raval and Suplico, Aerocom had agreed to pay attorney's fees amounting to 40 percent of whatever amount the firm would recover.

In his June 15 resolution, Gonzalez said that "no new matters" had been raised by the respondents in their motions which dealt with the same issues that had been thoroughly reviewed by his office.

He directed the Pasig City Prosecutors Office to file charges of estafa against Lokin and Hizon.

Lokin was also earlier meted a three-month suspension by the Supreme Court for allegedly double-crossing the late Potenciano Ilusorio in the corporate battle for control of millions of shares in the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. Ilusorio was a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Leila B. Salaverria

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The high court also cited its *Uy v. Sandiganbayan* decision stating that, "The Philippine Ombudsman, as protector of the people, is armed with the power to prosecute erring public officers and employees." *Nelson F. Flores*

Estafa raps vs 2 lawyers pressed

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT has denied the appeal of lawyers Luis Lokin Jr. and Salvador Hizon to reverse its recommendation that they be charged with estafa for allegedly depriving their law partners of their share of attorney's fees in a case that they had won.

In a resolution dated June 15, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez affirmed his January 2006 ruling recommending that Lokin and Hizon be charged with estafa for not paying their partners Demaree Raval and Rolex Suplico their share of attorney's fees amounting to P33.79 million each for a case that they won for their client, Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc.

Lokin, Hizon, Raval and Suplico, who is now a congressman for Iloilo, were partners in the Raval Suplico and Lokin Law Offices which entered into an agreement with Aerocom in 1994 to recover the latter's sequestered shares in several companies.

According to Raval and Suplico, Aerocom had agreed to pay attorney's fees amounting to 40 percent of whatever amount the firm would recover.

In his June 15 resolution, Gonzalez said that "no new matters" had been raised by the respondents in their motions which dealt with the same issues that had been thoroughly reviewed by his office.

He directed the Pasig City Prosecutors Office to file charges of estafa against Lokin and Hizon.

Lokin was also earlier meted a three-month suspension by the Supreme Court for allegedly double-crossing the late Potenciano Ilusorio in the corporate battle for control of millions of shares in the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. Ilusorio was a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Leila B. Salaverria

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BODY COUNT

More soldiers than rebs slain this year–AFP

By Dona Pazzibugan

MORE SOLDIERS THAN COMMUNIST rebels were killed in encounters in the first half of the year, but the military said this was because the rebels have been targeting "non-combatant" soldiers.

In a security briefing at the Camp Aguinaldo headquarters yesterday, officials reported that at least 87 New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed from January. to June 27 this year.

The report only accounted for the "body count" or actual bodies of rebels recovered from encounter sites.

Rebel casualties went down to 28 during the second quarter of the year, from 59 during the first quarter.

The Armed Forces meanwhile lost 104 soldiers in ambushes and clashes with the rebels. Government casualties during the second quarter went down to 46 from 58 during the previous quarter.

The data was based on field reports from the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), Central Command (Cencom) and Southern Command (Southcom).

Medical missions

NPA casualties so far were highest in Solcom with 29; followed by Southcom, 26; Cencom, 20 and Nolcom, 12.

Casualties on the military side meanwhile were highest in Southcom with 36; followed by Cencom, 28; Solcom, 24; and Nolcom, 16.

A military spokesperson attributed the higher government casualties compared to rebel casualties to the landmine attacks and ambushes staged on troops coming from medical missions.

"The casualties on the AFP are the non-combatants who were going to medical missions. So we see the treachery done by the NPA against our soldiers," said public information office chief Col. Tristan Kison.

The casualties on the enemy side is also likely higher, he added, since their official figures did not yet include reports about rebels carrying off their dead comrades away from encounter sites.

A couple of weeks ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo allocated P1 billion to military and police forces with orders to intensify their counter-insurgency operations.

Officials said Ms Arroyo found the military's target of wiping out the 37-year-old communist insurgency in six to 10 years "too long" and wanted security forces to dramatically reduce rebel forces in "critical areas" within the next two years.

Despite the slightly higher casualties on their side, the military said it continues to have the upper hand in the fight.

Part of winning

The military said the NPA lost more high-powered firearms than the military did.

Since January, the military has recovered 306 high-powered firearms from the rebels, though it lost 174 in the same period.

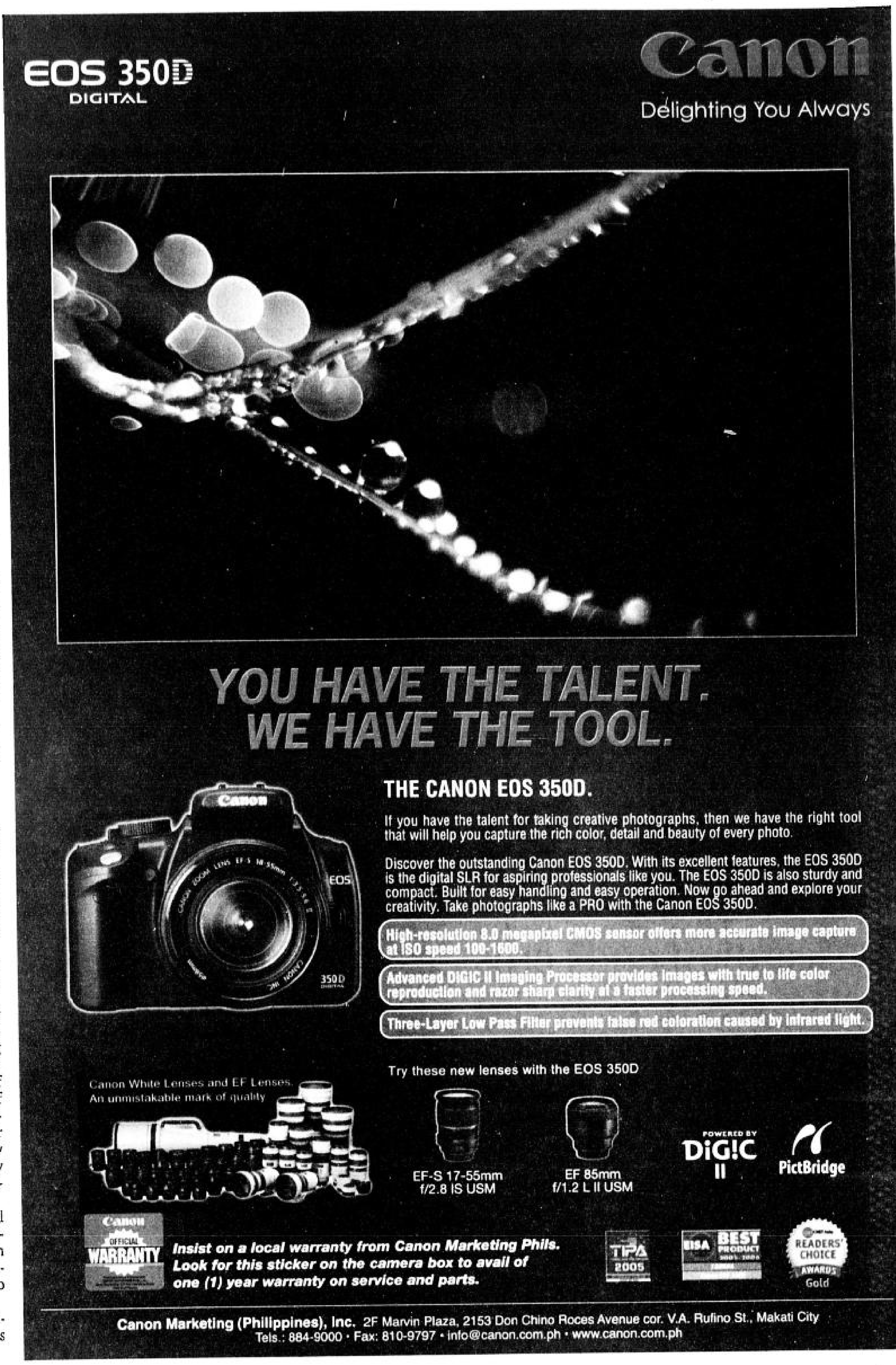
"This is part of winning. In every battle there will always be casualties," said Kison.

Military officials noted that clashes with rebels have significantly declined lately, resulting in less casualties for both sides.

"Although there are a lot of operations, the percentage of contact with the enemy declined perhaps because of our constant patrols. The enemy does not have the opportunity to consolidate (and stage ambushes)," Kison said.

He said the number of rebel ambushes and attacks on business establishments went down by "74 percent" during the second quarter, but there was no available data on this.

He said the military's estimate of NPA strength remains "a little over 7,000."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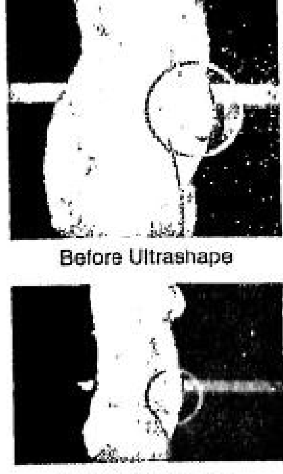
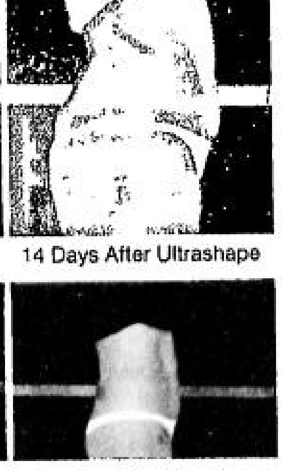
ULTRASHAPE

LIPO Without The Suction

Marie France brings to Manila the 1st Non-invasive breakthrough in Body Contouring

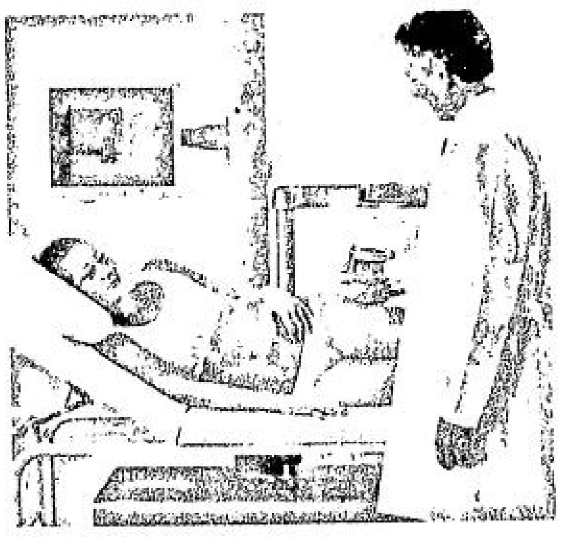
PLASTIC surgeons have invented a machine that can 'melt away' body fat in a patient's lunchbreak – ULTRASHAPE. This treatment gets rid of unwanted bulges and unlike liposuction does not require surgery. FAST, EFFECTIVE and SAFE, it's the most advanced method of body contouring to date.


Before Ultrashape


14 Days After Ultrashape

Before Ultrashape

28 Days After Ultrashape



Ultrashape was founded 5 years ago in Delaware, USA by Ami Glicksman M.D., formerly a senior plastic surgeon and Yoram Eshel, PhD, MBA, a leading expert in medical physics with 15 years experience in high-power ultrasound technology. Together they set out to pioneer non-invasive body contouring. When they started Ultrashape, it was well known that ultrasound waves were able to break down and destroy fat cells, releasing the fat contained within them. Some forms of liposuction had already started experimenting with ultrasound probes to liquefy fats and make it easier to suck them out. Glicksman and Eshel built on that to come up with a unique concept of Ultrashape.

Using a focused ultrasound beam, Ultrashape destroys fat cells effectively in the stomach, thighs (saddlebags), lovehandles and buttocks. It works by focusing high frequency ultrasound waves from outside the body to targeted areas. These ultrasonic waves break down fat cells without damaging blood vessels or other tissues such as skin, muscle, bone and nerves. From there, the broken down cells are absorbed into the patient's white blood cells and are then eliminated from the body through natural processes.

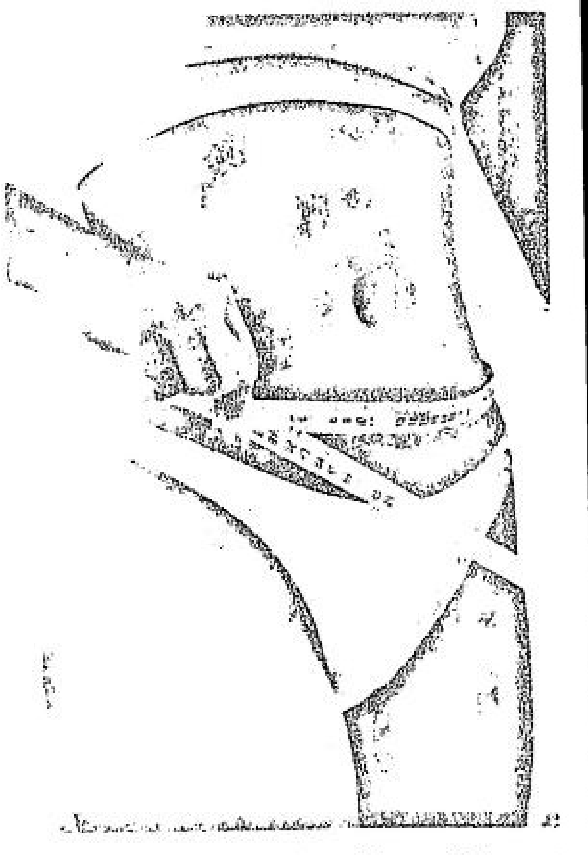
According to Dr. Eshel, "The inherent safety of our method lies in the fact that we only do half the traditional job compared to liposuction and let nature do the rest." Physiological clearance of the fat tissue occurs over a period of 3 weeks following the procedure, similar to the way the body clears out damaged tissue found in a bruise.

Normally about 4 sessions are recommended to fully achieve one's ideal figure. Women and men who have tried it are excited about the fact that immediate results were seen already after just a single session.

Ultrashape promises an average of about 2 cm in a single treatment. It is an easy procedure. No anesthesia is required because it is non-invasive. You walk in, get the treatment and walk out. It's as easy as that. There is no recovery period. Patients can resume their normal activities right after a treatment. It does not have the risks of liposuction and can be used to effectively deal with small problem areas of fat. Probably the safest and most effective non-invasive slimming treatment to date, Ultrashape is definitely a breakthrough in body contouring.

Ultrashape is now offered at Marie France. Demand for Ultrashape is so great, bookings being taken are for August onwards only. Don't miss your chance. Inquire now and start booking your appointment too. Call 894-BODY (2639) for your free consultation.

Ultrashape promises an average of about 2 cm in a single treatment.



Bunye clarifies PDI online story: GMA didn't 'cool her heels'

By Armand N. Nocum

MADRID (VIA PLDT)—PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday clarified an INQUIRER online news headline saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo was made to "cool her heels" after Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi set back their meeting by 30 minutes to watch a World Cup game.

In a press briefing at the Gran Hotel Canarias here, Bunye said "the delay was done with prior consultation because the minister was waiting for the result of the constitutional referendum and it happens that it was the game between Italy and Australia."

"But the President was advised of the delay and it was mutually agreed upon that the meeting be deferred for 30 minutes. But when the President arrived, she was immediately met right on the dot of the reset schedule by Minister Prodi. It's not as if the President arrived 30 minutes earlier and was made to wait for 30 minutes," he said.

Asked how the President felt about what "happened" with her appointment with Prodi last June 26, he replied: "Nothing happened, what happened was the wrong caption (title) was used (by the INQUIRER)."

A schedule of the President's activities during her two-day official visit showed that she would arrive here at 9 a.m. on Thursday from a resort at the Santiago del Campostela near Bilbao, Spain, where she had spent a two-day "President's time" to be with her immediate family members.

She will then proceed to the Congreso de Diputados and later attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rizal Monument. In the afternoon, she will have a lunch meeting with leading businessmen and then meet with King Juan Carlos I and President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

On June 30, she will call on former Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar, visit the Conde Duque for the Filipiniana Exhibit and meet with the Filipino community.

In the afternoon, she will proceed to the Palacio Real de Madrid and have dinner with the King and Queen of Spain before attending the Filipino-Hispano Friendship Day reception.

The President and her family will leave for Manila on Saturday and arrive in Manila on Sunday.

Palace tells Cruz: You're not Pope's spokesman

From page A1

won countless blessings for the Filipino people in terms of moral and spiritual guidance, so let us not force politics into the picture," said Bunye, who started his press briefing in Spanish.

Inspired

"Let the Pope's words reinforce the message of peace, unity and hope for the Philippines," he said, noting that media persons covering the President's meeting with the Pope had heard him say "well done" when she presented him a copy of the law abolishing the death penalty.

"The President is inspired by the kind words of the Pope and the more she will continue working for the welfare of our people, the overseas Filipino workers and the economy by seeking new investments and capital that will give them more opportunities," Bunye said.

Minutes after the press briefing ended, Bunye sent this text message to reporters:

"We pray that the Pope's blessing to our people will inspire our leaders high and low to do our share in winning our common battle against poverty and to rid injustice, poverty and self-serving politics and help take the country to the threshold of the first world."

Asked about the claim of Cruz that the Pope knew about the "Hello Garci" issue, Bunye replied: "As I said, he is not the spokesperson of the Pope."

Palace advice to CBCP

In Manila, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita urged the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to take its cue from the Pope, who has given a vote of confidence to Ms Arroyo, including her plans for Charter change.

CRUZ: Pope's words not an endorsement of GMA's presidency.

BUNYE: Let the Pope's words speak for themselves ... the President is inspired.

"We wish the CBCP would take heed of the statement of the Pope and the papal nuncio who represents the Vatican," Ermita said.

Ermita cited a speech by Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni during the Independence Day celebrations in Malacañang in which he praised Ms Arroyo's political reforms.

"Madame President, you recently spoke of an ambitious but achievable plans for 2006 that rest on three strategic objectives—building a stronger economy, building a stronger republic and pressing for long overdue political reforms. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your government every success in this endeavor," Filoni said.

Ermita claimed that Filoni "appreciated the political reforms planned by the President" and that "he is not oblivious to the fact that Charter change is what we are pushing as a major political reform."

Based on Filoni's speech, Ermita said: "We want to believe that the Vatican is conscious through the Papal Nuncio that the President is doing right."

Ermita did not take Cruz's criticisms lightly. "What does he (Pope) care about the Garci tape? Some people are just being naughty and not respecting the fact that the President is representing the Filipino people in her foreign trips. I think it is just bad taste," he said.

'Beyond doubt'

Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser on political affairs, said: "What is important and beyond doubt is that our President was met by the Pope with kindness, warmth and understanding if not encouragement in spite of or because of what he knows about what is happening in our country."

As of yesterday, the President was still at a seaside resort in Santiago del Campostela near Bilbao where she was spending a two-day "President's time" to be with her immediate family members. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila*

Prosecution ends cross-examination of Erap; ex-President confident

From page A1

video disc to disprove Estrada's claims that he never gave sovereign guarantees to loans taken out by state corporations.

The disc purportedly shows Estrada signing a document believed to be the 1998 contract between the Argentine firm Impsa and the National Power Corp. for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan Hydroelectric power plant in Laguna.

Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro told the prosecutor he could "not present evidence of collateral matters that have no bearing on the main issues."

"Not every statement made by the witness can be questioned by the prosecution," De Castro said.

Villa-Ignacio then moved to terminate the cross-examination, to the surprise of everyone inside the courtroom. "We already obtained what we wanted to get," he said.

"We have hurdled all our tasks ... the court already issued a resolution that we have sufficient evidence to warrant conviction," Villa-Ignacio said later.

"They have not presented anything to destroy my testimony," Estrada said after the weekly court session.

Irrelevant questions

"I'm just surprised why the special prosecutor was asking me irrelevant questions. The truth has finally come. I'm innocent and these were all made-up charges against me," said Estrada, 69, who has been under house arrest since his ouster in the aftermath of the 2001 People Power revolution.

The 5-year-old trial of Estrada entered its final stage this year with his long-awaited testimony. The prosecution rested its case in 2003 after presenting 76 witnesses and more than 1,500 pieces of evidence.

Estrada, who began taking the stand in March, has denied stashing hundreds of millions of pesos of illegal funds in a secret bank account, but admitted signing the account documents under a false name as the guarantor of a loan for a friend.

THE END: As in his movies, former actor-President Estrada gets a kiss from his leading lady, Sen. Loi Ejercito, at the end of his nearly three-month cross-examination on Wednesday. JOAN BONDOC

His lawyers also tried to prove there was a conspiracy to depose him by showing a video of his successor, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, saying that some military factions were turning against him a year before his ouster.

Estrada also has testified that he rejected a deal to go into exile in exchange for immunity.

'You're wasting our time'

Villa-Ignacio had tried to discredit Estrada's defense, saying the former leader gave false statements last month that he never gave government guarantees to loans taken out by state companies.

For the second week, the three judges stopped Villa-Ignacio from playing the video disc and displaying photos that allegedly show Estrada signing the loan agreement with the Argentine company.

Last week, the court objected to the showing of the video without first presenting the loan agreement document.

"You're wasting our time," said De Castro, head of the antigraft court, told Villa-Ignacio.

"We are very comfortable with direct cross-examination," Villa-Ignacio told reporters. He said he was able to get Estrada to admit he got P200 million from an illegal numbers game and tobacco taxes, and had kept it at a bank for Muslim scholars.

A verdict could come later this year, but many analysts expect Ms Arroyo to grant Estrada a pardon if he is convicted to cool political anger lingering from her rise to power and a failed impeachment attempt against her last year. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

US court OKs $2,000 payment to rights victims but PCGG blocks move

From page A1

Commission on Good Government, which is tasked with recovering Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth, said Rod Domingo, lawyer for the victims.

Last month, the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals awarded $35 million in a New York brokerage account that once belonged to Marcos to the victims.

The Philippine government has claimed the money belonged to its treasury, but the appeals court said it had no legal right to the account, which Marcos opened in 1972 with a $2-million deposit.

The government, however, filed a petition for rehearing and obtained a stay order from the appeals court on Friday.

"It isn't just sad. It is a tragedy that the government wants to prevent the poorest of its citizens from recovering for brutal human rights violations," Robert Swift, the American lead lawyer for the victims, said in a statement.

"The victims keep winning in US courts, the government keeps losing, but we still cannot distribute compensation," Swift said.

Pathetic

Domingo said it was "pathetic and unfortunate" that the victims could not receive "this minuscule partial distribution" because of the PCGG's opposition.

The amount for distribution to the Marcos victims totals $36.4 million, including money from a settlement of a claim to Marcos' residence in Hawaii and the sale of an old Mercedes-Benz car, plus interest, Domingo said.

Judge Real also has authorized that 10 percent of the amount be given as payment to the lawyers who worked on the Marcos cases for the past 20 years, according to Domingo.

Domingo said the number of Filipinos who won a class-action suit in Hawaii against Marcos for human rights abuses has been trimmed from 9,539 to 7,503 after spurious and double or triple claims were excluded.

The plaintiffs were awarded $2 billion in 1995 after the Hawaii court found Marcos liable for torture, summary executions and disappearances of political opponents during his 20-year rule that ended with a "people power" revolt in 1986.

Many victims poor

Party-list Rep. Etta Rosales of Akbayan, a member of Claimants 1081 that filed the rights cases in 1986, said a few days ago she was happy but felt bad when the PCGG decided to block the initial award.

"I hope the PCGG will realize that the bulk of these victims are poor people. No matter how small, material justice can help," Rosales said.

She said she was not surprised by the PCGG move because its mandate was to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

But she pointed out that the Constitution mandated that compensation must be given by the state to victims of human rights violations.

"It is in fact an expression of this spirit (that Congress is seeking) to legislate compensation for the Marcos victims. It is in that same spirit that I hope that PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio will decide to withdraw the motion for reconsideration," Rosales said.

She noted that the House of Representatives passed a compensation bill on third reading early this month.

More questions

For another group of plaintiffs, the Hawaii court's decision to grant partial compensation to each victim of human rights abuses raised a lot of questions.

"The major question is: Why did they crop the number to only 7,500? We are 9,539 victims with validated cases. Who decided who would be among the 7,500?" Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez said.

Another question Enriquez raised, almost incredulously, was why the court issued notices to the victims when the Philippine government was still going after the money supposed to be apportioned to them.

She said many victims including herself received their notices in the last week of May. The notices informed them of the next hearing on June 26, of the apportioning of the money and of the deductions sought by lawyers from whatever amount the court would award the victims.

Pro-rated lawyers' fees

The lawyers were seeking $1 million for expenses incurred during the trial and $775,000 as the cost of apportioning the money. After these are deducted, the lawyers would get 30 percent of the remainder as attorney's fees, Enriquez said.

"We're hoping, maybe the lawyer's fees could be pro-rated ... maybe 5 percent while what is given the victims is also partial payment," she said.

In the notices, the victims were enjoined to signify their opposition to the arrangement over the deductions before the June 26 hearing. Only 88 victims from Davao, however, were able to send their letters to the Hawaii court on time.

"We were all so busy, especially with the political killings ... We don't even know if everyone received notices because it's the office of Domingo that is forwarding the notices to us," she said.

Seek clarifications

Enriquez said she planned to write the Hawaii court to express her concerns and seek clarification of the ruling granting partial payment to only 7,500 victims.

"While I laud and commend the effort of the Hawaiian court to recover payment for victims, I am also concerned ... This could again be a divisive issue among the victims," she said.

Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989 without admitting any wrongdoing.

The Philippine government has recovered $683 million of Marcos' Swiss bank deposits.

Most of it has been spent by the government allegedly for land reform and related programs.

Under Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcoses should be spent on land reform.

Since 1986, the government has recovered a total of P60.8 billion in ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies, according to the PCGG.

Bills seeking to indemnify the human rights victims have been stuck in the House of Representatives whose members include a daughter of Marcos and her supporters.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said she will support legislation to set aside a certain amount of the money as compensation for victims of human rights violations under Marcos. *Reports from AP, Michael Lim Ubac and Blanche S. Rivera*

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 28 ISSUE, a story on Page A10—"AFP officers may face court-martial for coup plot"—misstated the name and rank of the inspector general of the Philippine Army. The Army's inspector general is Maj. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo—not Brig. Gen. Frederick Bocobo.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front-page story—"Dark horse emerges in race for new PNP chief"—misstated that Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao replaced Lucas Managuelod as PNP chief when the latter retired. Lomibao succeeded Edgardo Aglipay. Managuelod never became a PNP director general, although he once headed the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

* * *

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Unseated by court, Biñan mayor blames Abalos

By Marlon Ramos, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,* **and Jerome Aning**

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—MAYOR HERMIS PEREZ yesterday accused Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of meddling in local politics after a local court installed Abalos' son-in-law as the duly elected mayor of this town.

"The man who has caused trouble in Biñan is not from here but from the Comelec," Perez told about 500 supporters who trooped to the court house at about 6 a.m. yesterday to denounce Abalos and Judge Romulo Villanueva for allegedly conspiring to overturn the results of the 2004 municipal elections.

In a ruling issued on June 15, Villanueva declared Jose Francisco Ruben Yatco, the candidate that Perez defeated, as the real winner in the elections.

Yatco, a former vice mayor of Biñan, is married to the youngest daughter of Abalos.

Yatco has filed a motion for execution of the court ruling. The judge gave Perez five days to file an opposition to the motion.

In Manila, Abalos merely laughed off the charges.

"That's terrible. What kind of imagination do they have? I never interfered," Abalos said in a phone interview.

"Let them file the case and we will answer it in court," he said in Filipino.

Tensions ran high at the court house when the protesters, bearing placards and streamers, showed up. They accused Villanueva of allegedly accepting bribe money to favor Abalos' son-in-law.

One of the streamers read in Filipino: "We cannot let the decision of one man reverse the decision of the people of Biñan."

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Villanueva, through his clerk, refused to comment.

Supt. Willy Atun, the police chief, said he deployed 80 policemen around the court house compound to ensure peace.

The protesters left at about 10:30 a.m. after Perez spoke to them.

Perez, who is on the last year of his third and last term, accused Abalos of influencing the decision of Villanueva.

"I will not let injustice and incompetence change the decision of the people of Biñan. I will exhaust all legal grounds to defend the votes of the people," he told the INQUIRER.

Fernandino Concepcion, Yatco's lawyer, said it was "very unfair" for Perez and his lawyer to implicate Abalos in the alleged manipulation of the results of the election protest.

"Chairman Abalos never influenced this case. As a Comelec commissioner, he's very busy. He's also a lawyer himself. I don't think he will influence a judge over a case," Concepcion told reporters.

Perez was declared mayor in May 15, 2004 after he got a total of 43,217 votes, or a winning margin of 12,780 votes over Yatco.

Yatco subsequently filed an election protest with Branch 94 of the Biñan regional trial court, presided over by Villlanueva, nine days after Perez's proclamation. After a recount, the court said Yatco won by 1,694 votes over Perez.

Sixto Brillantes, Perez's lawyer, said it was highly improbable for Yatco to recoup the more than 14,000 votes from the 91 contested ballot boxes.

"That means they were able to recover 150 votes per ballot box. Based on over 500 election cases I handled in my entire career, that's very impossible," he said.

He also argued that the ballots included in the recount should be deemed void after a break-in in the storage room of the court on July 16, 2004.

"Some of the ballots in the recount were found sprawling on the floor of the storage room," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 29, 2006
Peter and Paul, Apostles

1st Reading:	Acts 12:1-11
2nd Reading:	2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18
Gospel:	Matthew 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They said, "For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Commentary

The history of the early Church sees the death of James and the imprisonment of Peter and yet the Church flourishes in the face of adversity and martyrdom, continuing the power of the crucified and risen Lord. And after house-arrest, Paul too will die by being beheaded. They preached the Word and died for witnessing to Jesus. Jesus who is prophet, the Word of God made flesh among us, is more than the awaited Messiah. He is the Son of God and Son of Man. And it is this Jesus who is with us and nothing in heaven or on earth, or even our own fighting, will stand against the presence of the Body of Christ in the world.

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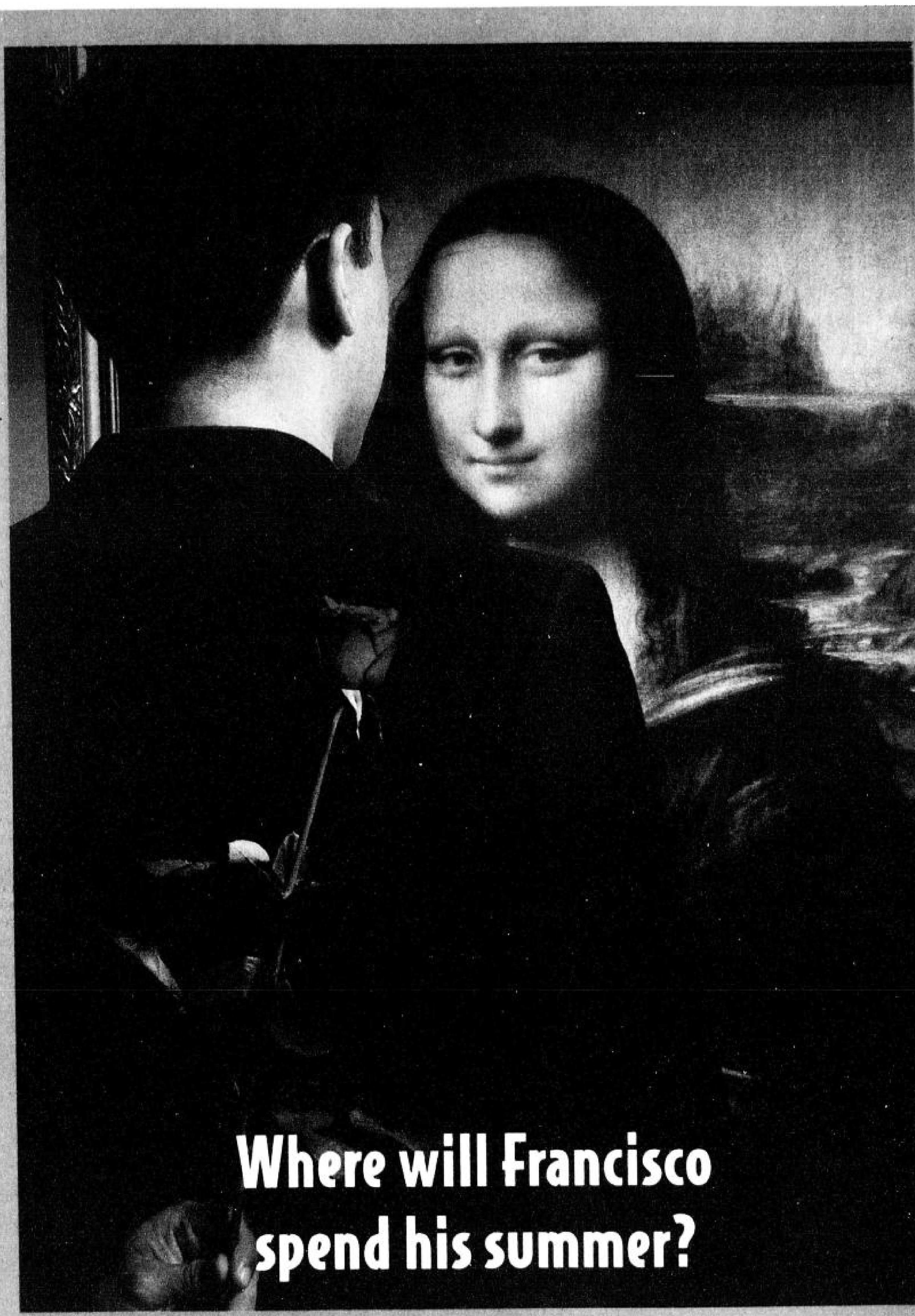
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Isabela mayor gunned down in Quezon City

From page A1

three men alighted from the vehicle (plate number XJM-532) and peppered his car with bullets.

Albano quickly left the car (plate number XJA 359) and ran for safety toward Villa Estela Poolside Bar and Cafe, but the gunmen followed him to the lobby and shot him repeatedly, according to case investigator SPO3 Demosthenes Rebancos.

The day before, the leader of a leftist group that advocates the occupation of private farms was killed on Negros island.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead Wilfrecio Cornea, vice chair of a farmers group called Task Force Mapalad, regional police said.

His death brought to 233 the number of militants who have been murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001.

Culture of impunity

The culture of death and impunity has bothered even Malacañang, which has been accused by militants of condoning the killings.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Palace was disturbed by the spate of killings in the country.

"We have asked the Philippine National Police to take all measures to look into the spate of killings and immediately solve them to discourage would-be perpetrators from doing these again," Ermita said.

Mayor Albano had stayed in Metro Manila since Thursday to visit his mother and his son, a first-year college student at Ateneo de Manila University, and was scheduled to leave for Ilagan yesterday, relatives said.

On Tuesday night, at about 10 p.m., Albano was preparing to sleep at his mother's house in Greenhills, San Juan, when a person called him on his mobile phone and asked to meet him somewhere in the Scout area, said Henrieta Abalos, who said she was a distant cousin of Albano's.

Sleep wear

"That person must have been close to him because he wasted no time to meet the person. He did not bother to change from his sleep wear and slippers, and he did not ask his bodyguards to accompany him," she said, quoting Albano's mother Socorro.

Francisco Calimag, the mayor's cousin and close-in security aide, said he tried to accompany Albano when the latter decided to go out of his house but the mayor declined. The mayor did not tell him where he was going.

GRIEVING mother of the slain mayor, Socorro Albano, arrives at Arlington Wednesday night to be with her son for the last time. RAFFY LERMA

Police said they were still investigating the identity of the person Albano was supposed to meet that night.

Stolen plates

The plate number of the assailants' getaway vehicle was later traced to one Liwanag Victoria, who said the plates had been taken from his car by suspected "Baklas Kotse Gang" members, according to Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., Quezon City Police District director.

Radovan said investigators were working "on a nice lead." But he refused to elaborate, saying this needed to be confirmed.

He disclosed that the Isabela police had volunteered to help in the investigation.

The National Bureau of Investigation has begun conducting a parallel probe of the case.

"It could only be one of two things—political or personal," said Supt. Procopio Lipana, QCPD criminal investigation division chief.

Lipuna said investigators would study the likelihood that the murder was connected to the same group that tried to assassinate Albano in November 2004.

Albano was then on his way to the municipal hall to check on a fire that broke out in Bliss Village when four heavily armed men fired at his Mitsubishi Pajero. Albano's two security aides returned fire, forcing the suspects to flee. The mayor escaped the murder attempt unhurt.

'Best mayor ever'

As soon as they heard about the mayor's murder, relatives, friends and constituents began gathering at Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, where Albano's body was taken after an autopsy at Prudential Funeral Homes.

"He was a good man. He was always ready to give his last centavo to anyone who needs it. If he sees someone with no shoes, he would give his own shoes immediately," said Albano's nephew Larry Hernandez.

Hernandez added: "Ask anyone in Ilagan and he'll tell you that Jojo (Albano's nickname) was the best mayor they ever had."

A WEEK BEFORE HIS BRAZEN MURDER, Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano showed the model house of the Gawad Kalinga project he initiated in a barangay in his town. Albano built 14 houses in Ilagan for the poor in two months. VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Under Albano's term, according to Hernandez, Ilagan had a significantly lower crime rate and became one of the cleanest cities in the north.

Awards

Albano, who had a degree in agriculture, pioneered the town's environmental protection program by developing the Sta. Victoria Caves.

It was during Albano's term that Ilagan was cited in the Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran for three consecutive years since 2001. Ilagan also won an award for being one of the cleanest and greenest towns in Cagayan Valley.

Said Ilagan municipal administrator Ricky Laggui: "The townsfolk love him. He was very down-to-earth and as mayor he really focused on the concerns of the masses."

Asked what could be the motive behind Albano's murder, Hernandez said: "Politics is personal in the Philippines. No matter how much good you do, there will always be people who will want to stop you."

He said he knew that Albano had made some enemies in his political life. "But we never expected that it would go this far," he said.

Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr., the mayor's brother, also suspected that politics was behind the slaying.

Hernandez squelched speculation about the possible involvement of the New People's Army: "I don't think the NPA will do this. The NPA knows how Jojo helps the Ilagan people."

Two years ago, the military accused Albano and Echague Mayor Leoncio Kiat of being sympathizers of communist rebels. Both mayors denied the charges.

Albano had said whoever would seek his help would be entertained.

During his term, Albano declared the Bonifacio Park in Barangay Baligatan a "freedom park." The park has since become a regular venue of protests organized by militant groups.

Albano started his political career as a youth sector leader and town councilor. In 1989, he was elected vice mayor. Albano ran for mayor in the 1995 elections but lost to Mayor Mercedes Uy. He ran and won in the 2001 and 2004 elections.

Anti-GMO

He rose to national prominence when he led Ilagan folk in a rally against crops laced with genetically modified organisms, particularly field trials of Bt corn *(bacillus thuringiensis)* by agricultural firm Monsanto-Philippines.

Albano supported the town council's resolution disallowing further tests of the GMO crops, amid fears that the agricultural products could harm the people.

Isabela Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes said Albano's death was a big loss to Ilagan because of the mayor's dedication and sincerity.

"We lost one of those who are sincerely serving with determination in the province," said Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy III.

With Albano's death, Vice Mayor Josemarie Diaz assumed the mayoral post while Councilor Samuel Maddara took over the vice mayor's post.

Rival

Isabela Board Member Jesus Cruz Jr., one of Albano's political rivals, extended his condolences to Albano's family.

Cruz said his rivalry with Albano centered only on their work as public officials.

Cruz and Albano have pending court cases over the confiscation of logs and logging trucks allegedly owned by the board member. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

AFP widens war theater in Central Luzon

From page A1

lion in Luzon, does not know when their mission would end in Lubao, the hometown of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"All I know is that I want this war to be over," Parang says, as his men mill around alert, some clutching their M-16 rifles. Most of the soldiers are in their 20s and 30s.

"We are a new breed of warriors. We are the people's army, not the rebels," Batnag says as other soldiers cheer him on.

House to house

Their work, says Parang, is not just about hunting the rebels. Much of the days, he adds, are spent going from house to house to "talk to people, to befriend them."

"Census" was the term the soldiers used when they conducted their house visits, barangay chair Jose Pineda recalls.

They haven't imposed a curfew, though, but Pineda says he told the soldiers that some residents go home late from work. No complaints have been raised so far and Pineda prays the presence of soldiers would bring good than harm to the village.

The basing of troops within the communities is not just happening in San Jose Gumi, recent developments in Central Luzon showed.

The same troop deployment has occurred in other parts of Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac—provinces just outside Metro Manila—since three weeks ago.

This was done slightly ahead of Ms Arroyo's fresh declaration of all-out war against insurgency and the new two-year deadline she has set to defeat the communists. *(See map on Page A1.)*

"The (Armed Forces of the Philippines) has added a new tactic. Aside from maintaining headquarters around Central Luzon and pursuing the rebels in their mountain holdouts, the military has sent troops to live and operate right where the civilians are," says Roman Polintan, chair of the left-wing Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Central Luzon.

Strangely enough, Polintan notes, the fresh deployment of troops to Central Luzon's lowlands has taken place after 82 activists have been killed and more than 40 others abducted and feared dead since 2005.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the Northern Luzon Command, says the two developments are related only in that the military is making its presence more felt to prevent more killings. He says the military has never been involved in those attacks.

Who are the enemies?

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, says that by moving some of his troops in towns and cities "within the sphere of influence or control of communist armies," the military is "able to deny the enemy a network of mass support and financial resources."

Palparan says the government's 37 years of fighting insurgency have been long enough to "master" how the enemy operates.

Palparan's critics say his ways are dangerous in that these do not distinguish who the enemies are.

"There's a whole violation of due process and laws guaranteeing the protection of the right to life, liberty and property set out in international laws and agreement on human rights and humanitarian standards," says Fabian Hallig, chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers in the region.

For one, the targets of operations in Palparan's expanded theater of war are not armed guerrillas, as soldiers in Gumi and other villages have professed to hunt down.

"Legitimate organizations, their leaders, ordinary civilians are being subjected to surveillance, profiling and background investigation," Hallig says.

Military takes over

Soldiers have visited Bayan-Pampanga chair Frank Mangulabnan twice in his house in the capital City of San Fernando, advising him to go to a detachment in Barangay San Jose to "have himself cleared."

Since June 26, three volunteers of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid in Bulacan have gone missing in Barangay San Miguel in Hagonoy town.

In Angeles City, soldiers have taken three civilians for questioning regarding their links with the NPA.

Amid all these, Hallig laments that "civilian authority is now subordinated to the military, with local governments tolerating these acts by simply pretending they don't know what is happening in their areas of jurisdiction."

Only a few mayors in Bulacan have called for a stop to the use of barangay halls, day care centers and chapels since these are for public, not military, use.

No uproar

Unlike in the martial law era, local officials and church leaders have yet to demand the pullout of troops in the villages in defense of civil liberties and political rights. The Commission on Human Rights has not taken a strong stance against the presence of military troops among civilians.

"You need not be a communist to be protesting against the government. I think the military does not see it that way. To them, it appears that all protesters clamoring for changes in this government are communists," says Aurora Broquil, chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya in Central Luzon.

She believes that the military has taken its new form of war in the communities—a combination of anti-Left propaganda, harassment, threats, killing and abduction—to remove or silence opposition to Ms Arroyo's stay in power.

This, she says, also enables the administration to force development projects that are drawing in foreign investments but which are taking away what little farms, fishing grounds and other resources are left from the locals.

These leaders fear that soon enough, the region will have its share of internal refugees or civilians displaced by the war taken by the military right at their doorsteps.

For now, they say, activists and their constituencies will have to hold their ground through the only power they know: To speak their mind out against the policies they disagree with.

"It's a risky proposition," says Polintan.

Gov't wants The Hague to expel Joma

From page A1

him? I do not know but we will see soon," he added.

Ermita said the Philippine and Dutch governments had yet to hold formal discussions on the matter.

Another obstacle

There is, however, another major obstacle to Malacanang's plan: The Philippines does not have an extradition treaty with The Netherlands.

Even so, legal sources explained that Malacanang was hoping that the filing of murder cases against Sison in various local courts would prompt Dutch authorities to consider the CPP founder a criminal fugitive and an undesirable alien.

In such an eventuality, according to legal sources, Sison would be expelled from The Netherlands and turned over to Philippine authorities.

Philippine defense and security officials earlier disclosed another Malacanang plan to tighten the noose on Sison—the filing of murder charges in The Netherlands against Sison based on affidavits of the widows of former communist leaders Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara. The two widows have accused Sison of ordering the killings of their husbands.

According to the officials, this legal maneuver may prompt The Netherlands to arrest Sison, try him for murder and put him away for good in a Dutch jail.

Beyond RP jurisdiction

Sison has dismissed the planned murder charges against him as "politically motivated and meant to deceive the people and divert their attention from the criminal culpabilities of the Arroyo regime for electoral fraud, corruption, and gross human rights violations."

Sison has also stressed that he was beyond the jurisdiction of Philippine laws.

Released from jail by President Corazon Aquino in 1986, Sison sought refuge in The Netherlands the following year. His applications for political asylum, however, have been rejected thrice by the Dutch government.

Citing the protection afforded him by the Refugee Convention and Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Sison has also claimed that the Dutch government could not just expel him "to anywhere he was in danger of torture and other ill treatment."

Even so, Ermita said the Philippine government was satisfied at how the terrorist tag on Sison by the European Union and the United States had dried up his sources of funds overseas.

"It has been good for us," said Ermita who scoffed at Sison's demands that the Philippine government use its clout to have his name stricken off the EU and US list of terrorists as a precondition for the resumption of peace negotiations between Manila and the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"I don't think he is in a position to give preconditions for the resumption of talks," Ermita said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has accused communist rebels of colluding with her political foes and renegade soldiers in a bid to oust her in Februrary.

JI militants still training in Mindanao, Aussies warn

AUSTRALIA FEARS MILITANTS BELONGING TO Jemaah Islamiyah, a terror network based in Indonesia, may be using rebel sanctuaries in Mindanao for training, perpetuating the terrorism threat in the region, an Australian official said Tuesday.

Philippine security officials have said government forces destroyed major clandestine training camps used by JI, al-Qaida's regional ally, on Mindanao island in recent years.

However, the officials also acknowledge that Indonesian members of the group continue to hide in Mindanao.

"It's less clear how much is still going on," Les Luck, Australia's ambassador for counterterrorism, said of the militant training. "They have been put under pressure, and there have been some dislocations.

"Our assumption is that these groups are very persistent, and would continue to try and recruit, and are going to use safe havens anywhere as much as they could," Luck told The Associated Press in an interview. "Their access to those sanctuaries needs to be shut down."

Luck spoke on the sidelines of a closed-door counterterrorism conference of Philippine and Australian officials in Manila.

Among a few dozen JI members who Philippine authorities believe are hiding in the country's impoverished south are Indonesian militants Dulmatin, who goes by one name, and Umar Patek.

Both allegedly played key roles in the 2002 nightclub bombings on Indonesia's Bali island that killed 202 people, 88 of them Australians.

A security official involved in hunting down the Indonesian militants, said Patek has been recently sighted on Jolo island, a key base of Abu Sayyaf—a small but violent al-Qaida-allied group on Washington's terror blacklist.

Washington has offered huge rewards for information leading to the capture of Dulmatin and Patek, along with top Abu Sayyaf commanders led by the group's chieftain, Khadaffy Janjalani.

US forces have been deployed in the south since 2002 to train and arm Filipino troops battling militants.

Australia has also increased its counterterrorism assistance to Manila, helping train Philippine police criminal forensics and bomb blast investigators. It also plans to provide watercraft that would help Filipino troops pursue militants in Mindanao's sprawling marshlands.

Philippine defense officials say both nations are making progress in negotiations on an agreement for joint military training in the Philippines.

AP

PAL says delay not due to GMA trip

By Nikko Dizon

THE CANCELLATION of a Los Angeles-bound Philippine Airlines flight on Monday night has sparked speculations that the cancellation was caused by President Macapagal-Arroyo's chartered flight to Europe.

The airline billeted more than 300 passengers in a hotel with the cancellation of flight PR 102, airport sources said. They took off for Los Angeles on Tuesday before 1 p.m. but not before airport sources speculated that the cancellation was caused by unavailability of aircraft.

Airline officials, however, said the cancellation was due to technical problems on the Boeing 747 jet that was supposed to be used for the flight, not because President Arroyo used the aircraft for her delayed trip to Europe.

The President was supposed to leave Saturday for her trip to Italy and Spain, but her departure was delayed by a day because she was taken to the hospital Thursday night with diarrhea. She left Sunday on an Airbus A340.

"Definitely it's not because the President used one of our aircraft," Rolly Estabillo, PAL vice-president for communications, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Estabillo said that the Boeing 747 assigned to the Los Angeles flight experienced some technical problem.

Estabillo said PAL immediately made the necessary adjustments for their other flights after Malacañang informed the airline of the President's special flight to Europe.

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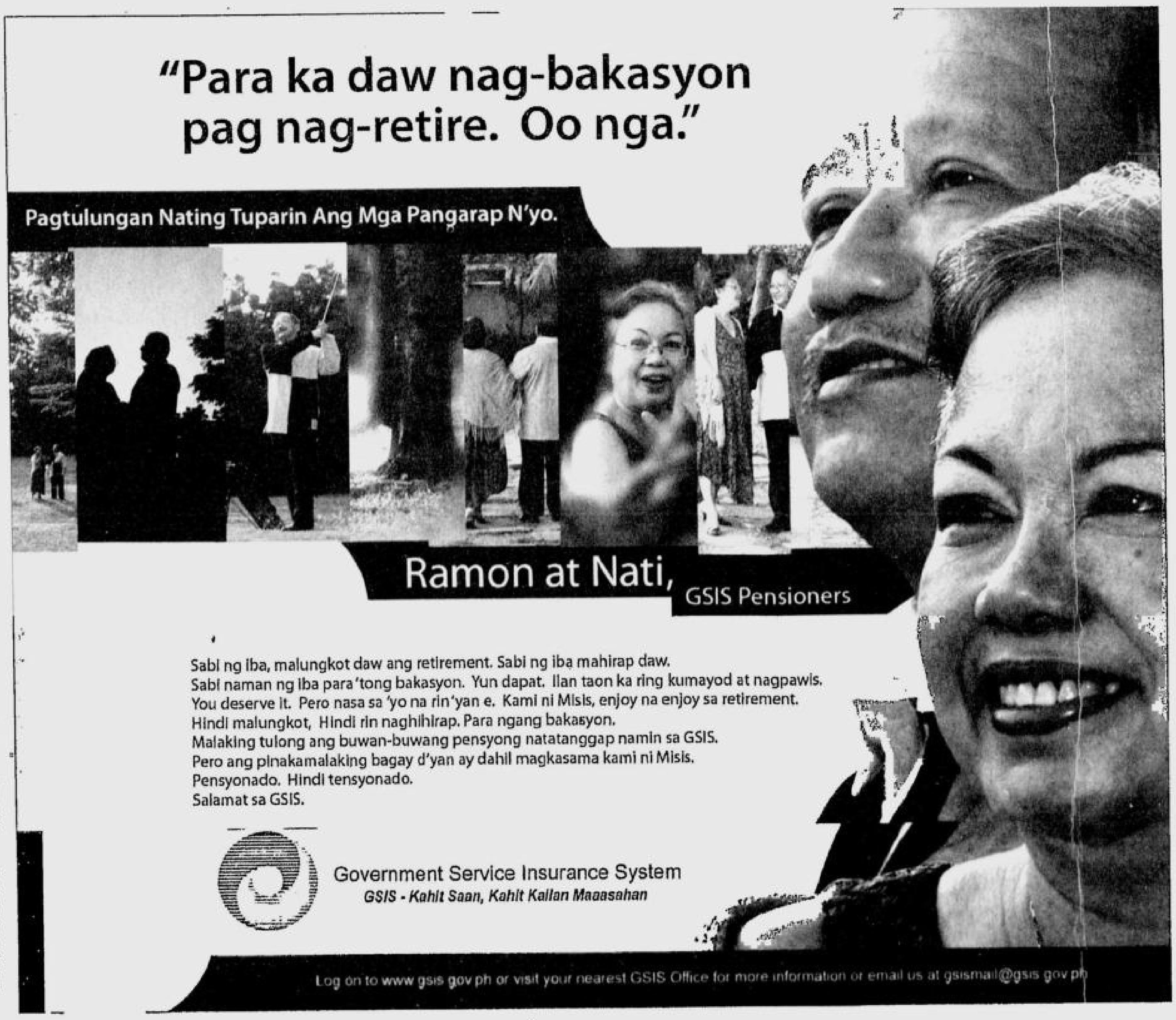
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NP, LP leaders eye coalition for 2007 election

By TJ Burgonio

LEADERS OF THE LIBERAL AND NACIONALISTA parties are in talks for a possible coalition in the 2007 elections, according to administration Sen. Ralph Recto, an NP member.

Recto confirmed plans by the party, headed by Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr., to coalesce with the Liberal Party to strengthen their senatorial and congressional line-ups.

"Between now and December, there will be talks between the two parties. We have less than a year to go before the elections, and many people are thinking of elections already," said Recto, who will himself be running for reelection.

He said he had not heard about any plans for the NP to merge with the faction of the LP led by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

"What I've heard is a possibility of an NP-LP coalition. But with which wing, I don't know," Recto said.

The LP has been split into the factions of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who is backed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor, and Drilon, who called for Ms Arroyo's resignation at the height of the Hello Garci scandal last year.

The Villar-led NP, which counts more than 20 House legislators led by Villar's wife, Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, in its membership, did not join calls for the President's resignation and is consequently viewed as pro-administration.

The planned coalition between the country's two oldest political parties has come under criticism from Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"The project coalition of the LP and the NP for the 2007 elections is a good move for short-term political gains," he said in a statement.

Personal popularity

"It is, however, a reflection of the lack of specific platforms that differentiate one party from the other. Which is why political parties of the country are essentially weak and victory in partisan contests rely more on the personal popularity of the candidates than on party platforms," he said.

Pimentel also said the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, the umbrella organization of opposition parties that backed the failed presidential bid of the late movie star Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004, should be dissolved.

The coalition has outlived its usefulness, he said.

"Indeed there is no need to keep a coalition that no longer serves its purpose," he said. "In fact, it is my view that the coalition was dissolved after the elections of 2004, the purpose for which it was organized."

Pimentel, who chairs the PDP-Laban, said he would formally inform the Commission on Elections that the PDP-Laban was no longer part of the KNP, which he said has been "inactive" since the last elections.

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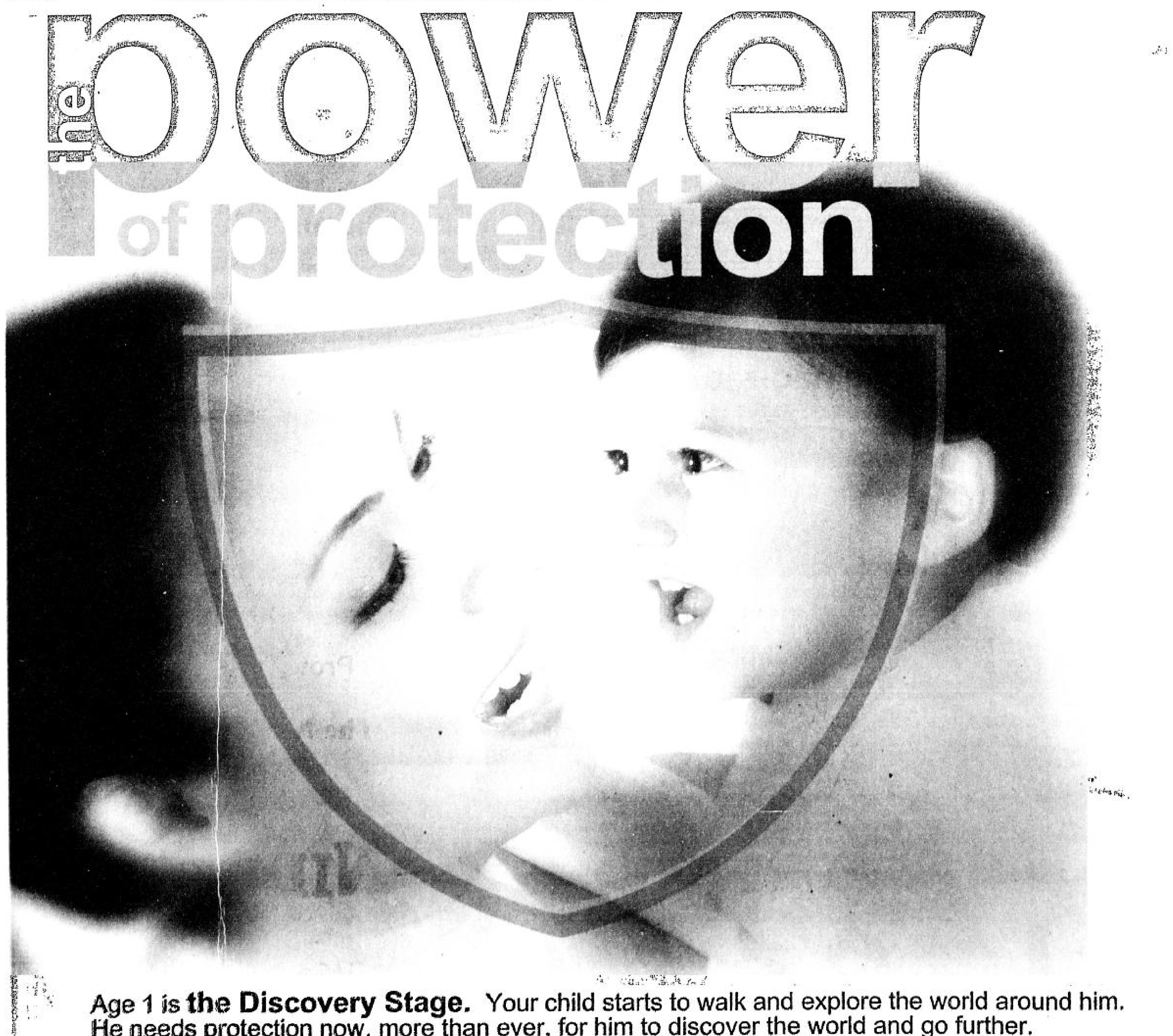

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No tax compromise for Ruffa, parents

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE WILL not entertain any settlement offer of the P3.3-million tax evasion case it filed against movie actress and former beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas and her parents, Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag announced this yesterday in a press conference when asked if the BIR would accept a settlement of the case.

The Gutierrezes have asked the Department of Justice that the case be reinvestigated and remanded to the BIR.

"You know the policy of the government. You know the policy of the secretary of finance : no settlement," Buñag said.

The respondents have been identified as owners of Royal Era Entertainment Inc. which produces movies, TV shows and concerts, and promotes show biz talents.

Gutierrez-Bektas is the wife of Turkish millionaire Yilmaz Bektas and was Second Princess in the 1993 Miss World beauty contest. Her father Eddie is an actor in the '60s while her mother Annabelle is a former starlet.

Asked why the BIR allowed singer Regine Velasquez to settle her tax evasion case, Buñag clarified that Velasquez's case was not settled but was dismissed by the DOJ. The BIR has appealed the decision.

"The case of Regine is different. It was not settled, it was dismissed. She paid but the case was dismissed and it's on appeal," he said.

"Of course if somebody paid, you have to accept. But the payment does not mean the case will be dismissed because of the criminal aspect of the case," he stressed.

The Gutierrez family had blamed their tax problems on their "illiterate" maid-cook who, they said, failed to inform them of the request of a BIR officer who went to their residence to scrutinize accounting records of their company.

The respondents denied that they deliberately refused to cooperate with the BIR officer, adding that revenue officers, who were supposed to deliver the second request for examination of Royal Era's books of accounts last March 27, were not allowed to enter their house for security reasons.

They insisted that remanding the case to the BIR would erase doubt that they were denied due process.

The BIR said that the company committed the following violations from 2003 to 2004:

- Unlawful pursuit of business. Royal Era was allegedly registered with the BIR only in 1998 when its operations started in 1996.
- Failure to file its corporate annual and quarterly income tax returns from 1998 to 2002 despite having produced several movies and concerts.
- Underdeclaration of income derived from millions of pesos in commissions received from GMA Network Inc. in its income tax returns by 40 percent in 2003 and 222 percent in 2004
- Failure to update its registration as an entity subject to value-added tax and failure to file the requisite VAT returns and pay its VAT dues.

Among the concerts produced by the company which the BIR was able to verify were: "Songs and Laughter Unlimited (Dec. 7 and 8, 2001)," "The Way We Are (Oct. 26 and 27, 2001)," "One Night Stand Date (Oct. 25 and 26, 2002)," "Ara in a One Night Stand with Hajji (Oct. 26, 2002)" and "A Very Wholesome Show" (Oct. 25, 2002).

The company also produced several movies from 1998 to 2002, namely "Babae sa Cake" (1998), "Mga Liham ni Alberto" (1998), "Babae sa Dilim" (1999) and "She Wants to be a Millionaire" (2001).

Rebs' plea: Respect our civil rights

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS YESterday urged the government to respect the civil rights of their comrades targetted by President Gloria Arroyo's revitalized two-year counter-insurgency campaign.

"Suspected revolutionaries" are being secretly detained and tortured, while other members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its 7,400-member New People's Army (NPA) have been murdered by "death squads", CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said.

The government is pouring fresh troops into the provinces around Manila to comply with Ms Arroyo's orders to rid these areas of CPP-NPA influence within two years, but the military and police deny any role in a wave of killings of leftist figures in recent months.

The 37-year-old Maoist rebellion is sustained mainly through extortion of businesses and local politicians, which Ms Arroyo says is holding back development of the rural areas. She shelved peace talks with the rebels two years ago.

"A clear pattern of impunity has emerged in the course of the Ms Arroyo regime's 'all-out war' of terror against the armed revolution and democratic people's movement," Rosal said in a statement. *AFP*

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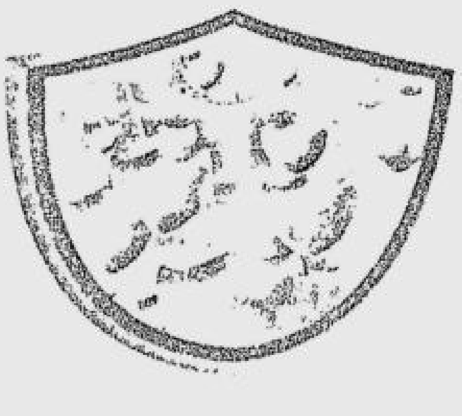

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Embarrassments

EDITORIAL

POPE BENEDICT XVI DOESN'T WANT THE CHURCH to meddle in Philippine political affairs, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared after their 20-minute meeting at the Vatican last Monday. This was the impression she gathered after receiving a copy of the Pope's encyclical on justice, which defines "the role of the Church in the search for justice," she said.

Nothing new there really. That was what Jesus Christ meant when he admonished everyone to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." But if the President really believed that, what was she doing when she offered as one of her "gifts" to the Pope the newly minted law abolishing the death penalty? By her words and actions, Ms Arroyo merely confirmed the suspicions of her critics that she rushed Congress into passing the law precisely to please the Vatican, preparatory to her visit. And if all these looked like an open invitation for the leader of the Catholic Church to push for the adoption of its position on various issues as official government policy, Ms Arroyo hardly minds. She proudly related that the Pope was "very supportive and encouraging" of her policies and her "work for the poor." She added: "I am encouraged by his comments. He knows about the issues in the country."

Perhaps, the Pope and the President were talking about different things or on different wave-lengths. Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Dagupan said that when the Pope said "Well done," it was not a blanket endorsement of her administration, but an expression of approval for the abolition of the death penalty. "It's incongruent [with the Church's position] for the Holy Father to say she has done a good job, what with all the scandals happening left and right, the graft and corruption, the termination of lives even of religious personalities," Cruz pointed out.

Cruz's, of course, is the more logical interpretation, although it was the President that the Pope talked to. The President, who proudly professes her Catholic faith, has been known to come out of papal audiences apparently too much-awed and spellbound to recall her conversations with unerring accuracy. Last year, she told CNN that it was after her conversation with Pope John Paul II that she finally found the "courage or conviction" to break away from then President Joseph Estrada and join the Edsa II uprising in 2000. "The Pope had a very, very keen sense of understanding of what was happening in the Philippines and he was very encouraging toward my taking steps to make sure that I would do what I could do in order to promote morality in Philippine society," she said. The only problem with her recollection of those events was that she announced her resignation from the Estrada Cabinet the day before her meeting with the Pope.

Given the President's sometimes faulty—or selective—memory, the administration would save itself further embarrassment by not harping on the encouragement and support the Pope supposedly gave to her policies and her work. On this trip, it was almost painful to hear Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye briefing reporters about the talking points between the Pope and the President. Bunye said that during her meeting with the Pope, Ms Arroyo would discuss the sainthood of two Filipinos as well as the appointment of more Filipino cardinals. "We have two pending applications for sainthood," he said. "Maybe she will work for the sainthood of the two beatified Filipinos." He went on to say that Ms Arroyo would take up the "naming of more cardinals" because being the biggest Catholic country in Asia, "proportionately we should have more cardinals in the College of Cardinals."

Someone ought to have told Bunye that sainthood is not a license, a franchise or a job. No one "applies" for it, not even in behalf of a saintly countryman or relative. If the Philippine government "applied" for sainthood for some Filipinos, it would have been a first in the annals of the Church. It just isn't the way things are done. And the same thing goes for presidential lobbying.

If Bunye did his homework, he would have known, too, that the College of Cardinals is not Congress, whose membership is based on proportional representation of the citizens. Indeed, had he talked to anyone but himself, he would have been told that the Church is not a democracy.

Maybe, the jet-lagged Bunye didn't know he wasn't back home talking about a recalcitrant Senate and a rubber-stamp House of Representatives.

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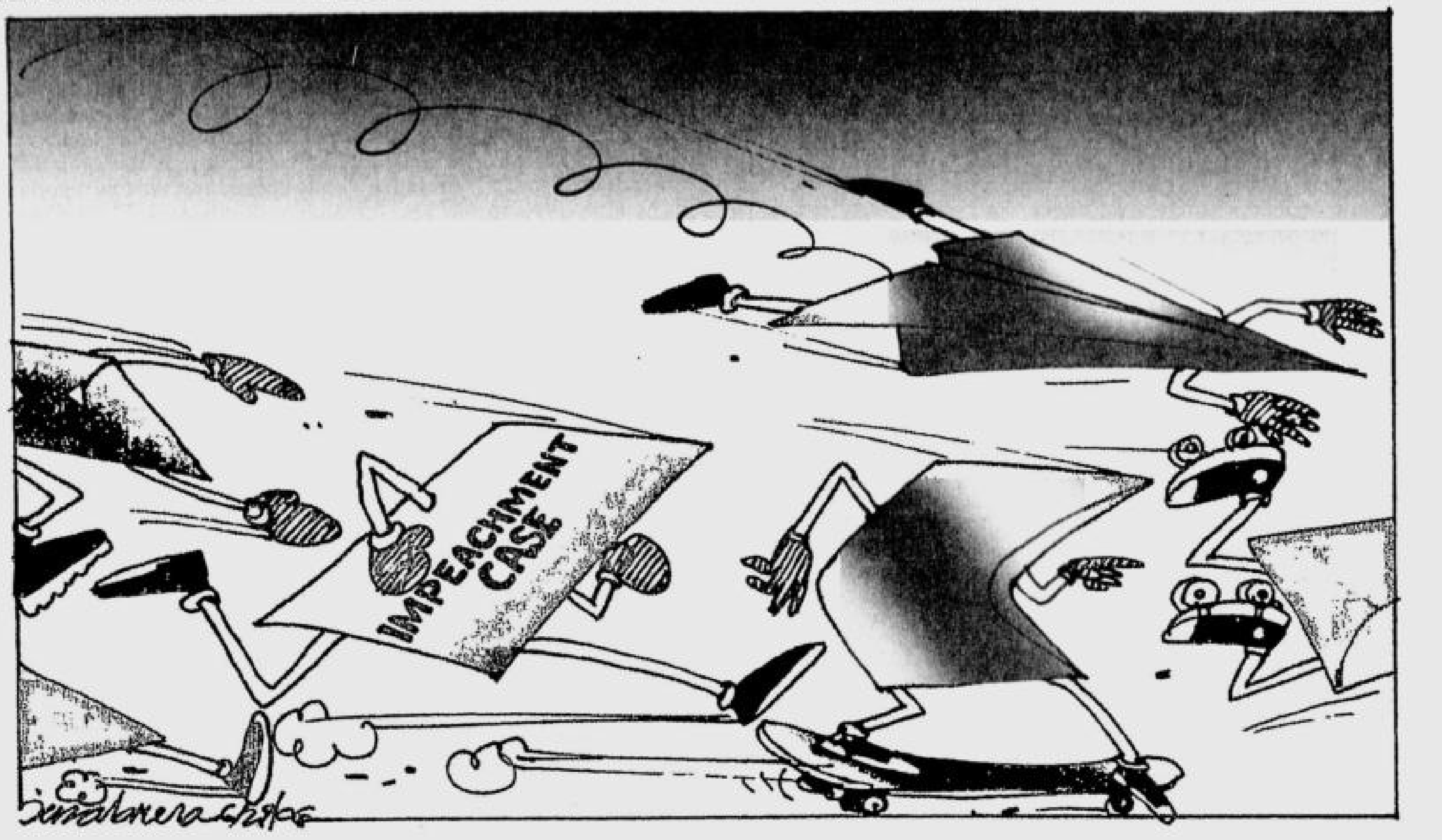

Murky muteness

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

BLOCKED FROM BOARDING HIS EUROPE flight, party-list representative Satur Ocampo invoked his constitutional right to travel. Yet, the "Batasan 5" and their communist allies seek to destroy that same Constitution, a reader writes. So, why should you give them the "benefits of law"?

The question bugs many. They see that New People's Army attacks, and the National Democratic Front's "legal struggle," are flip sides of the same coin. Both seek to overthrow government and install an unelected "dictatorship of the proletariat."

The NPA shares the "same world view" with the Batasan 5, party-list representative Teddy Casiño murmurs. Democratic space, meanwhile, gives them elbow room: from "peace talk consultant" passes to parliamentary immunity from arrest.

Isn't that allowing arsonists into your house? "This would never have been allowed in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea," columnist Antonio Abaya notes. *Onli in da istupid Pilipins*.

Taking up arms against government is a crime. Being a communist is not. Casiño & Comrades, nonetheless, shrink from the tag. Bayan Muna's Satur Ocampo, Gabriela's Liza Maza or Anakpawis' Rafael Mariano prefer antiseptic names like: "militants," "leftists," "radicals," etc.

Many in media oblige. That's understandable. "The name of a man is a numbing blow from which he never recovers," Marshall McLuhan wrote in his 1964 landmark study, "Understanding Media." Except for North Korea and Cuba, communism has collapsed everywhere else. Who'd relish being identified with a bankrupt creed?

The European Union and the United States didn't quibble. They've added NDF to their list of "terrorist organizations." And that crimped funding from abroad.

Doubts of Filipinos deepen over what communists refuse to discuss. "The cruelest lies are often told in silence," Robert Louis Stevenson once said.

Party-list representatives zippered their lips when, in the last elections, they were bluntly asked by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines: "Do you support payment for 'permits to campaign' levied by the NPA?" After she denounced the NPA for "extorting money from candidates of all stripes in the elections," Akbayan's Etta Rosales said she became a target for hit men.

Neither will the Batasan 5 question "revolutionary taxes" that the NPA wrings at gun point. Taxation is the sole function of a sovereign government. Thus, they'll shuffle around NDF claims to a "status of belligerency," i.e., heading another state.

They've kept mum on the post-1992 CPP policy of assassinating former communists: Romulo Kintanar, Popoy Lagman and Arturo Tabara, among others.

Meeting in Brazil, the World Social Forum called for a stop to threats against ideologues like Walden Bello, Lidy Nacpil and others. The assassination threats were credible, it said. "Kill the chickens to scare the monkeys," Mao Zedong taught.

Neither will they discuss the bloody pogroms: "Cadena de Amor," "Takip Silim," Operations "Missing Link," "Kampanyang Ahos" and "Olympia." How many were tortured and executed in the paranoia over military infiltrators? Was it 2,000? Or 700 executed in purges that netted five agents, as Walden Bello claimed?

INQUIRER's Juan V. Sarmiento Jr. wrote an insightful five-part series on this pogrom. "At night, I could hear screams" from party members dragged off for execution, recalls survivor Gil Navarro. But the communist policy of gritted teeth ensures we'll never know the full truth.

They've ignored the appeal of the victims' families. "Name all those killed and identify the location of their mass graves."

Few talk on what their program of government will be. A flood of open letters, articles, "studies" and graffiti, meanwhile, cascades from "organizations" claiming to represent every sector: students, migrants, workers, fisherfolk, etc.

These are cubbyhole operations with access to a fax, printer and computer. "They're megaphones," award-winning commentator Bobby Nalzaro points out. "And you'll know them by their silences." Their unvarying targets are also revealing: the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the United States, the President, anti-dissident programs, etc.

Murky muteness erodes credibility. Thus, homegrown communists never muster enough warm bodies to topple even an unpopular regime like the Arroyo administration.

Like Sisyphus, they've been locked into hijacking political groups, from Fernando Poe Jr.'s campaign to Erap's bid to beat plunder charges—to wrest power. That has eluded them so far.

Neither can they count on widespread citizen support until transparency replaces their policy of selective silences. And that signals how a society can lose its own soul if it withholds constitutional rights, even to its enemies.

The exchange between Will Roper and Chancellor Thomas More underscores this point. "So, now you give the devil the benefit of law?" Roper asks.

And More replies: "Yes, What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the devil?"

Roper: "Yes. I'd cut down every law in England to do that."

More: "Oh? And when the last law was down, and the devil turned around on you, where would you hide, Roper? .... Do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the devil the benefit of law, for my own safety's sake."

* * *

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Still, snap Gloria

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MEMBERS OF THE BLACK & WHITE MOVEMENT should really stop muddling things by being there all the time and making it appear as though the citizens' initiative to impeach Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is their initiative. You would imagine from the way they keep invading the activities devoted to it that it is their brainchild. They should stop usurping things. It makes them look like their former boss.

The issue, in any case, is black-and-white, they shouldn't make it gray. The one thing I'm still waiting for Dinky Soliman and company to say is that GMA should resign or be ousted because she cheated in the elections. They've said a mouthful of things about why she should resign, but they have yet to say that.

When they left GMA's government last year, all they said was that GMA had lost the trust of the people. All they said was that GMA was no longer accepted by the people. That is opinion. Why on earth should GMA resign because of their opinion? When in fact the clearest and most obdurately compelling reason for why GMA should resign was staring them right in the face: That is, that she cheated in the elections. That is not opinion, that is fact. That is truth etched in tablet, or in the obdurately compelling form of GMA's DNA-imprinted languorously raspy voice saying "Hello Garci."

Dinky and company continue to say a mouthful about why GMA should resign—or be impeached—but they have yet to say because she stole the vote. I leave them to say why they cannot say that.

I'm all for the citizens' initiative for impeaching GMA. The lawyers and politicians, who are often one and the same and to be found plentifully in the camp that pays money will, of course, scoff at it and say it has weak legal and legislative legs to stand on, if any. But clearly the matter has gone beyond the court of law (or of Congress) and landed squarely in the court of public opinion. The first has a "buy-able" judge, notably the congressmen, who stand to rule on the merit of impeachment; while the second has an incorruptible one, notably the public whose will has been known to move mountains and remove molehills.

I do wish, however, that the citizens-impeachers would emphasize one thing above all others. I do wish that the citizens-impeachers would put in black-and-white ahead of all items in their charge sheet one thing. That is the fact that GMA cheated in the elections. It is not that she has lost the public trust, it is not that she has become a dictator, it is not that she has caused the slaughter of the innocents or committed crimes against humanity. It is that she stole the vote, it is that she is not the rightful President, it is that she is ruling this country without the voters' mandate.

That is the fountainhead of the iniquity. Everything flows from there. The loss of public trust comes from it, the recourse to dictatorial methods comes from it, the murderousness and viciousness come from it. Everything else is subordinate to it.

I do wish, as my one other caveat, that the citizens-impeachers would launch an accompanying campaign for snap elections. The one goes with the other. In the past, calls for the impeachment of GMA have run up against the question, trotted out by her supporters, "But whom do we replace her with?" A ridiculous question doubtless—proposing as it does that anyone may seize the reins of government and keep them for as long as there is no immediate "alternative"—but unfortunately one that has not fallen on deaf ears. GMA herself is the best argument for it, demonstrating as she does that removing a bad leader can produce worse. Noli de Castro is second.

The answer is snap elections. It preempts or voids the question "But whom do we replace her with?" that's bound to be raised again against impeachment. The answer to illegitimacy is legitimacy. The answer to a leader who did not win the elections is a President who won an election. The answer to who to replace GMA with is who the voters want to replace her with. That's what democracy is. As I've argued repeatedly, the most obvious legal argument for snap elections rather than for succession is that the presidency isn't being vacated by illness or incapacity, it has never been occupied. An impeachment initiative that says first and foremost that GMA stole the vote presumes that.

As I've learned over time, however, what makes the wisdom of snap elections hard to grasp for many people is the misconception that they can happen only once GMA resigns or is ousted. That isn't so at all, and that has to be said again and again.

A snap election does not happen after GMA leaves, it happens before GMA leaves. It is not the effect of GMA leaving, it is the cause of GMA leaving. It is a way, a means, an instrument, a tool, a weapon, a crowbar to pry GMA loose from a position she is clinging to like glue, or like Ate Glue, illegally. Or at the least the call for a snap election is. That call by itself, particularly where it is made by the most representative sectors of society, by the most credible representatives of those representative sectors of society—Cory, Archbishop Lagdameo and Cardinal Rosales, business leaders other than the equally fake Donald Duck (he has a reversible jacket, one side saying "Erap" and the other "GMA"), civil society stalwarts or the ones other than those who still have to return the Peace Bonds, and so on—will be as Joshua's trumpets tearing down the walls of tyranny like the cardboard façade of a B-movie.

Impeach GMA, hold snap elections to fill in the blank. The first can't prosper without the second. Both really need just one idea to get it across to the public, and that is "Snap Gloria." Still:

Say No to A Phony.

Second complaint to last even shorter?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SECOND IMPEACHMENT CASE AGAINST President Macapagal-Arroyo, initiated by a group of citizens and NGOs, is taking on a different pattern from the one filed last year. There were two complaints filed last year: the first was filed in June by Oliver Lozano and was endorsed by Rep. Rodante Marcoleta; the other, the "amended" complaint, was filed when Congress opened in July and was endorsed by nearly 40 opposition congressmen. Because the original complaint was filed a full month earlier, it was the one recognized by the House.

This year, the opposition has taken pains to avoid falling into the same predicament by resorting to "serial impeachment"—the filing of the same complaint every day by different sponsors. (The latest to file is Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez, who, ironically, was reported to have headed a fact-finding committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines that two years ago came out with the conclusion that GMA really won the 2004 elections, albeit by a much lower margin over FPJ.)

* * *

This second impeachment initiative has begun to take on a comic character because of the opposition's "serialized approach." What's clear, as some House members have noted, is that despite the number of citizen-complainants, it will still be ultimately a numbers game. It will move only if it gains the support of 78 House members. Pencil-pushing has become a favorite game in the chamber once again. Among those doing it is Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, who wrote last year's justice committee report and defended it on the floor. He recalled that last year's complaint drew 158 votes against and 51 for impeachment, with six abstentions. This time, his fearless prediction is that those against would be anywhere between 165 and 173, meaning that the pro-impeachment group would be considerably whittled down. He also says four among the six congressmen who abstained last year might join the ruling coalition.

Villafuerte says that the charges in the second complaint are mostly a rehash of old ones, and that the new ones can be easily debunked. But he's looking very clinically at the political realities of an election year, when politicians wouldn't want to lose the public works projects they need badly to be reelected.

* * *

I've also heard that some House members are beginning to realize that some colleagues are just using the second impeachment to gain media mileage for their candidacies. Other lawmakers feel that after that "first bout," *tama na, husto na—tumahimik na tayong lahat at harapin na natin ang mga problema ng bansa.*

Then there's the "Macalintal principle" which says that the first impeachment case is still alive in the Supreme Court. There's also the feeling, even among non-GMA admirers, that with three years to go, *patapusin na lang siya* and let's hope the economy gets better.

All these arguments are making some congressmen conclude that this second case will be dismissed even more quickly than the first. Pundits also believe that GMA is stronger than during the first case and that if the economy continues to perform well, *lusot na siya.*

* * *

Tomorrow is RP-Spanish Friendship Day. This was established three years ago by RA 9187, authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara in the Senate and Speaker Jose de Venecia in the House. As Filipino writer, historian and diplomat Jose Ma. Carifio noted, it was inspired by President Emilio Aguinaldo's decree 110 years ago paying tribute to the uncommon valor of a detachment of 50 Spanish soldiers and three priests who held out in Baler, fighting local Katipuneros for a year even after the war was lost by Spain. Only 33 Spaniards survived the ordeal and Aguinaldo, learning of their gallant stand, ordered that they be given safe passage to their homeland.

* * *

Lawyer Natividad M. Roma, a labor arbiter in the Office of the Chairman for Adjudication, National Labor Relations Commission, recently returned to the country after serving as labor attaché in Madrid for two years. She said she met a nephew of a Spanish soldier in that Baler siege, adding that this year's observance will be more meaningful as GMA and former Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas are in Madrid to toast it. She also referred to the "excellent and admirable penal system in Spain" where the jails are not crowded and have a recreation center, library, movie house, clinic, chapel, sports center and social workers for the prisoners. One time she visited a Filipino in jail and was made to wait while he was having his siesta. "Talking of *derechos humanos!*" Inmates are also allowed to work in prison, and she knew one Pinoy who sent his salary as a *cocinero* in prison to his family in RP. Inmates also get to enjoy provisional liberty. Their application to spend a few days outside is approved by the judge on condition that they report to the police daily and exhibit good conduct. At one time an inmate spent such time in the Philippine Overseas Labor Office. Natty was also astonished to learn that a Filipino detainee in Barcelona was released from jail a day after the trial. "*Que maravillosa!*"

* * *

The UE College of Law and its alumni association will hold a colloquium on Charter change tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the UE Conference Hall. Dean Amado D. Valdez, colloquium moderator, said the panelists include former Secretary Gualberto Duavit, Davao Rep. Douglas R. A. Cagas, Sulu Rep. Hussin U. Amin, Philconsa govenor Fortunato P. Aguas, 1986 Concom member Vicente B. Foz, former Sandigan Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao and business executive Rufino R. Tan. It's one of a series of colloquia initiated by UE chair Panfilo O. Domingo to increase awareness on vital national issues, as part of the UE diamond jubilee celebration.

Of saints and martyrs

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A FEW DAYS AGO, FIRST GENTLEMAN MIKE Arroyo said that a saint—Saint Teresa of Avila no less!—and two future possible ones belong to the Arroyo-Tuason-Pidal family tree. Mr. Arroyo made the claim while aboard the flight that took the First Couple to the Vatican for a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. He revealed this even as the Arroyo administration is being accused of committing a variety of unsaintly acts.

This makes one review and reflect on what really makes a saint, particularly a martyr, canonized or not, in this day and age.

The Philippines now claims two saints, both males—San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod who were canonized in 1987 and 2000, respectively. These two men from a long-ago century left out in the cold the saintly and daring Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, founder of a major Filipino religious congregation for women. Mother Ignacia's cause has been well documented.

In the 1970s, the Philippines needed a canonized saint, and so the proponents searched for one. That was how it was in the case of Lorenzo Ruiz who was killed, along with Dominican missionaries, in Japan several centuries ago. I read the book on the search by Antonio Delgado, ambassador to the Vatican during the Marcos era, and was shocked to learn that there was no candidate at that time. In the beginning, there was no name, no face, no place, no event to speak of. But the Philippines had to have a saint and so the search was on. Lorenzo Ruiz surfaced.

As I asked in 1987, why couldn't it have been the garotted Fathers Burgos, Gomez and Zamora? Or for future canonization, the two Kabankalan lay Church leaders German Moleta and Alex Garsales who were murdered in the bitter sugar cane fields of Negros in 1980? Wasn't their death a proclamation not only of their Christian beliefs but also, and more importantly, of their faith in Christ's teachings about the Kingdom of Truth and Justice which these latter-day martyrs helped bring to fullness?

Well-known theologian Karl Rahner questions the traditional concept of martyrdom which is simply that of a "free, tolerant acceptance of death for the sake of the faith." This definition, he says, excludes death in an active struggle. Rahner pleads that this concept be broadened. "The death Jesus 'passively endured' was the consequence of the struggle he waged against those in his day who wielded religious and political power. He died because he fought: his death must not be seen in isolation from his life."

Rahner questions why Bishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who was slain while fighting for justice, a struggle he waged because of his conviction as a Christian, is not officially called a martyr. "Certainly, (Romero) was prepared for his death," Rahner insists. He also finds it strange that Maximilian Kolbe, who offered to die in the place of a family man in Hitler's concentration camp, was canonized as a confessor and not as a martyr.

Controversial Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff adds: "Jesus did not go unsuspectingly to his death .... He remained radically faithful to his message, to the Father and to the course he had chosen. He did not avoid his adversaries, nor flee from the crisis in Galilee, but 'resolutely took the road for Jerusalem' (Luke 9:51) for the final confrontation."

There are several kinds of martyrs, Boff says. There are martyrs because of their public profession of a faith that de-absolutizes and de-divinizes the powers of this world. History is full of such martyrs, he says—from the time the Roman emperors were declared divine, and on to the periods when fascist tyrannies held sway.

There are also martyrs, he adds, on account of their faithful adherence to the teachings of Christ. In the past, Boff says, Christians, driven by their religious faith, undertook actions which had political consequences; today, more and more Christians, particularly in the Third World, are carrying out actions, based on political convictions that originate in faith and the Gospel.

Christian martyrs or simply heroes? Only God knows where to draw the line. Enda McDonagh, author of "The Making of Disciples," tries to put the issue to rest: "It would be foolish to resist extending the range of Christian martyrdom to those who give their lives for their neighbor in political contexts. It would be equally foolish to interpret all deaths for political causes as unambiguous instances of Christian martyrdom."

Isn't the assassinated Protestant Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a champion of civil rights in America, a saint whom Catholics should emulate? What about the Hindu proponent of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi? Or, the four Catholic women missionaries who were massacred in El Salvador, and recently, Sr. Dorothy Stang who died defending the Amazon forest and its inhabitants?

Filipinos do not have to search in musty archives. We have our own modern-day Christian saints who remain alive in the hearts of those they lived and died for.

* * *

"Seven in the Eye of History" has been compacted into a new cheaper version, "Mga Bagong Bayani: Modern Filipino Heroes" (edited by Asuncion David Maramba) and is now sold in bookstores. These seven heroes, including Ninoy Aquino, lived and died before the turn of the century. I wrote the one on Macli-ing Dulag.

Claretian Publications has a reprint of "All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for our Time" by Robert Ellsberg. It's a great mix of Therese of Lisieux, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Benedict, Paul VI, Hildegard of Bingen, Hammarskjold, George Fox of the Quakers, Dorothy Day, Takashi Nagai, etc. for 365 days.

* * *

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Forked tongue

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

CHRISTIANITY MEANS TURNING THE OTHER cheek. So when the Palace slaps the Pope, he has to grin and bear it. The President claims the Pope, through her, wants Catholic bishops to cease and desist commenting on issues such as Charter change. The Pope, she says, looks dimly upon ecclesiastical comments or participation in political issues.

What did Pope Benedict XVI say, regarding the Catholic Church and politics? In his first encyclical letter, "Deus Caritas Est" (this can easily be accessed on the Internet; any Catholic parish should be able to provide the curious citizen with a copy), he wrote the following:

First, he explained the Catholic interpretation of the separation of Church and State: "The just ordering of society and the State is a central responsibility of politics. As Augustine once said, a State which is not governed according to justice would be just a bunch of thieves .... Fundamental to Christianity is the distinction between what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God ... in other words, the distinction between Church and State, or, as the Second Vatican Council puts it, the autonomy of the temporal sphere. The State may not impose religion, yet it must guarantee religious freedom and harmony between the followers of different religions. For her part, the Church, as the social expression of Christian faith, has a proper independence and is structured on the basis of her faith as a community which the State must recognize. The two spheres are distinct, yet always interrelated."

Second, he defined what politics should be about: "Justice is both the aim and the intrinsic criterion of all politics. Politics is more than a mere mechanism for defining the rules of public life: its origin and its goal are found in justice, which by its very nature has to do with ethics. The State must inevitably face the question of how justice can be achieved here and now. But this presupposes an even more radical question: what is justice? The problem is one of practical reason; but if reason is to be exercised properly, it must undergo constant purification, since it can never be completely free of the danger of a certain ethical blindness caused by the dazzling effect of power and special interests."

Third, on the Church's social teachings, he said "It is not the Church's responsibility to make this teaching prevail in political life. Rather, the Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest. Building a just social and civil order, wherein each person receives what is his or her due, is an essential task which every generation must take up anew. As a political task, this cannot be the Church's immediate responsibility. Yet, since it is also a most important human responsibility, the Church is duty-bound to offer, through the purification of reason and through ethical formation, her own specific contribution towards understanding the requirements of justice and achieving them politically."

Fourth, in rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what's God's, he said: "The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper. A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the Church deeply."

He explained that while "the formation of just structures is not directly the duty of the Church, but belongs to the world of politics .... The Church has an indirect duty here, in that she is called to contribute to the purification of reason and to the reawakening of those moral forces without which just structures are neither established nor prove effective in the long run."

In other words, the Church, through its bishops and priests, lays down moral guidelines and interprets them, insisting all the while that human behavior reflects the principles of Christian thought. What the Pope calls for is for Catholic citizens to take up the fight to make the teachings of their faith impact on political life: "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society, on the other hand, is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation 'in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good.' The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competencies and fulfilling their own responsibility. Even if the specific expressions of ecclesial charity can never be confused with the activity of the State, it still remains true that charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and, therefore, also their political activity, lived as 'social charity.'"

* * *

Full disclosure: the Black & White Movement, as an organization, is a petitioner in the impeachment complaint against the President. I am one of the convenors of Black & White.

Lovely as a '3'

I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom.
—Umberto Eco, "Foucault's Pendulum"

YOUNG BLOOD

Emy Bautista

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I LOOK LIKE MY FATHER. THIS EARNED ME A SPECIAL place in his heart, so I was able to get away with anything as far as he was concerned.

Father was a quiet man, whose tongue loosened only under the influence of alcohol. I cannot remember ever having had heart to heart conversations with him. In fact, I cannot remember any "big moments" with him. I cannot remember being spanked or scolded by him, things my siblings had experienced. His presence in my life was something that I took for granted.

He passed away when I was in college. And that's when I realized how true was the saying that we only appreciate the presence of people in our lives when they're gone. The death of my father left a longing within me that can never be replaced.

I've known many people who deal with this hollowness with regret, telling themselves they should have done some things differently or feeling sorry that they were not better daughters. But I have no such regrets. I know I was not exactly the best daughter a father could have, but I had been *me* and I think my father appreciated that. We had no "big moments" together, but in that short span of time between my birth and his death, our lives overlapped. Every minute of it, I was his daughter and he was my dad. I was the person that I am and he treated me in the only way he knew. I didn't want to change anything because I knew it would be unlike my father to wish that I did.

I was in my final year in college when I met my other dad, and he was in his last year at the university, too. I was graduating, he was retiring. While some professors were either addressed as "Doctor," "Prof'," "Sir" or "Ma'am," he was better known and referred to by his initials: CRR. (I think some students didn't even know what CRR stood for.)

He taught the bloodiest course in Agricultural Engineering during our time. Some students took the course twice, others thrice, and still others more times than that. My transcript of records shows that I took it only once, it felt like I took it seven times.

It was a very demanding course, mentally and physically, but the real agony started when I failed to take the final exams. He gave me a 4.0, a conditional failure, and I had to work hard for the rest of my college days to get it changed to a 3.0. I took a total of six exams, the results of which I never saw. Every time I approached him to inquire, all he would tell me was the schedule for the next one. And every time I got that response, I became more and more frustrated.

There were times I wished that I had flunked it outright because that would have spared me from spending time in the limbo of suspense and uncertainty. I felt that I was being challenged intellectually. I was obsessed with the course. I took all the examinations he was willing to give. I stopped asking for the results. I felt so uncertain, I was afraid, I was hurt but I was too stubborn to give up.

Despite everything, I couldn't get myself to get mad at him. Sometimes when I was doing some experiments for my thesis, he would come near and observe what I was doing. At first, I didn't appreciate it. I didn't like the pressure from his presence. I saw it as torture, a test that I was failing miserably.

Eventually I got used to it. I realized that he was just trying to help. He saw things, small problems and inconveniences I either didn't notice or chose to ignore, and he suggested ways to solve them.

The torture about my grade of 4.0 ended one day soon after I had completed the defense of my thesis and finished writing it. I was going to graduate, and only the 4.0 was in the way of my march to the stage to receive my diploma. So I went to his office and asked him, "Sir, am I graduating?"

He told me to inquire from the college secretary the next day.

I had waited the whole semester, so another day wouldn't matter, I told myself. But even then I already knew the answer and I knew I deserved it.

When I went to the office of the college secretary, he gave me the thumbs-up sign the moment he saw me. I felt like crying.

I went to my professor's room and said a hurried thanks since he was getting ready to leave. I did not see him again after that.

I think he might have exaggerated the torture a bit but maybe he wanted me to get serious and remind me that I can't get away with poor performance so easily. Maybe he was preparing me for the world out there, and giving me the kind of lesson only a father can give.

In my my thesis' acknowledgments, I wrote: "Thanks to Dr. Carlos del Rosario for all the concern, the lectures, fatherly preaching and challenges. All of my life, I guess, I will never see, a grade as lovely as your 3.0."

In case he didn't get to read that one and he happens to read this piece instead, I'll say it again: "Thank you, Sir Daddy."

From my two dads, I got no long talks or big words, only great lessons.

Emy Bautista, 29, finished her BS in Agricultural Engineering at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños and now works in a government corporation. She is pursuing her master's degree in Public Management at the UP Open University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

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THEY SAID

Abused legacy

"Without [people empowerment and a sense of ownership among Filipinos], our tourist spots will be seen as nothing more than products that can and should be used, instead of a legacy to our children and grandchildren that must be preserved."

—Former Education Secretary Ricardo Gloria on tourism

All-out war unmasks real GMA

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO launched her all-out war against the communists not in her speech in Cauayan, Isabela but long before that—when activists and government dissenters, including journalists, began to disappear or to be killed in broad daylight, with impunity.

With her declaration of an all-out war against the Reds, GMA has practically shed all her pretensions about the killing of militants, the harassment of the Batasan 5, the implementation of CPR and the issuance of 1017. Her all-out war declaration revealed her real intent to rob the Filipino people of their freedoms, even if must cost lives; and it has become clear as the blue skies that she is principally responsible for the ongoing series of militant killings in the Philippines.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said we have to suffer the "collateral damage" of this war against the insurgents. But we need no longer look into the future for this harm (read: "killings") to befall our country. It is already unfolding and it will only intensify in the coming months as GMA unleashes her dogs of war to go after not only the insurgents but also the legitimate critics of her unpopular administration, who will then be listed as "collateral damage" in the language of Gonzalez.

I fear for innocent civilians. I fear for the unarmed, peaceful dissenters. I fear for those who call themselves the silent majority, for eventually they, too, will bear the brunt of the Arroyo administration's militaristic approach to solving our country's problems.

GMA will succeed only in making herself the best recruiter for the insurgency movement. From the time she imposed herself as the President of this country, she has charted only two directions for our people: the first leads toward jobs in other countries; the second leads toward the insurgents' training camps out in the hills.

GMA does not have a solution for our country's problems. She is leading our people to perdition.

—CLEM BACANI,
Arlington Avenue,
Riverside, CA 92504

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When will militant, media killings stop?

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JOURNALISM and Development (CCJD) strongly condemns the killing in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato of NGO workers and part-time journalists George and Macel Vigo.

Their brutal, cold-blooded and senseless killing puts to question the capacity of this government to protect its citizens, and highlights the existence of a culture of impunity that it so assiduously denies.

The slaying of George and his wife Macel in broad daylight makes a mockery of justice and erodes the foundations of democratic institutions. Their killing couldn't have happened at a more ironic confluence of events: the celebration of Jose Rizal's birth anniversary and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's chilling statement that the loss of civilian lives as "collateral damage" may be unavoidable in an all-out war with insurgents.

At the time of his death, George was working with the Community and Family Services International (CFSI), a non-profit organization assisting thousands of Filipinos, displaced by armed conflict in Mindanao, to rebuild their lives. He wrote for UCANews, a Catholic news service. Macel was executive director of the People's Kaayuhan Foundation Inc. (PKFI), which is implementing the Integrated Rehabilitation Project for B'laan evacuees. She used to host a radio program on children and women's issues. Both were active in the peace movement in Cotabato and worked tirelessly to establish a peace radio network.

The CCJD joins other voices in loudly and vehemently condemning the inhuman attacks on journalists, NGO workers, activists and people who simply want to shape a better tomorrow for their country.

Even as the CCJD demands justice for George and Macel, it joins other voices plaintively asking: when will the killings stop?

—RED BATARIO,
executive director,
Center for Community Journalism
and Development, 30 Quezon Avenue,
Phase 4, Bankers Village III,
Antipolo City, 1870 Rizal

Not involved in selecting proposed town's leaders

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE NEWS STORY headlined "Town formed to return sultan dominion to Muslims," (PDI, 4/17/06) to which my attention was recently called by Dr. Portia Mapanao.

The news report made it appear that I was interviewed and I was supposed to have said this: "The decision would boost the peace effort, according to Dr. Erlinda Santurias, president of Southern Christian College." (The spelling of my family name is "Senturias.") Right after I supposedly made the statement came the report that the first set of the new town's officials will be appointed by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

I would like to make it clear that I do not want to be involved in the selection of leaders in the area because this is a very sensitive issue which only the Bangsamoro should decide. The above-mentioned news story appears to give the impression that I favor one of the parties contending for the leadership of the town, and this is not true.

There are two sultans now in Midsayap: Sultan Quezon Blao was installed on Jan. 29, 2006; Sultan Dimasonsang Fernandez Tambilawan II, on the first week of May. Both belong to the Dilangalen clan and each of the two has his own following. The latter is reportedly the choice of Secretary Puno for the leadership of the proposed municipality which has yet to be created by law.

I was not personally interviewed by Nash Maulana. If I were interviewed, I would have said that the proposed town should not only be composed of 11 Muslim-dominated barangays because, based on our partnership with the Bangsamoro communities in Midsayap, the town has 18 barangays that are predominantly Muslim. I know this because our school entered into a partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform during the time of Secretary Horacio Morales to form the Rajah Buayan Special Agrarian Reform Communities which is composed of the 18 Muslim-dominated barangays.

I really wish there is peace in the area. The Muslim-dominated barangays are very poor and generally neglected. Some of the barangays have poor roads and dilapidated school buildings. Also, they have no electricity, no safe water supply, etc.

But peace can only come when the people's aspirations shall have been heeded and their needs met; and when problems like land conflict such as the problem now in Barangay Rangaban, are addressed by bringing together all the contending parties to a dialogue.

It is also important that people are prepared for governance and leadership. There should be a genuine desire to make the area prosper because it is rich in resources. But it needs to be properly developed.

—DR. ERLINDA N. SENTURIAS,
president, Southern Christian College

Mindanao correspondent Nash Maulana has admitted that he did not interview Dr. Erlinda Senturias for his article. The INQUIRER regrets this breach of journalistic ethics.—Ed.

DAR reminded of owners' right to compensation

LANDOWNERS HAVE ALL THE RIGHT TO hold on to their lands and to resist any attempt to deprive them of their lands without just compensation. In other words, landowners have the right to defend their land ownership from anybody, including the Department of Agrarian Reform. It is clear from the Constitution and RA 6657 that agricultural land acquisition/expropriation cannot be implemented without just compensation.

Landowners are just too willing to submit to the land reform program of the government. But they have been made to suffer the abuses committed by the DAR in the implementation of PD 27. Thirty-three years after their agricultural lands were "redistributed," they have yet to receive just compensation.

The low agricultural production in the Philippines is the offshoot of the government's poor implementation of agrarian reform laws. The DAR has only succeeded in creating uncertainties in agricultural land ownership.

—OSCAR S. LIBUNAO,
professional agricultural engineer,
Mandaluyong City

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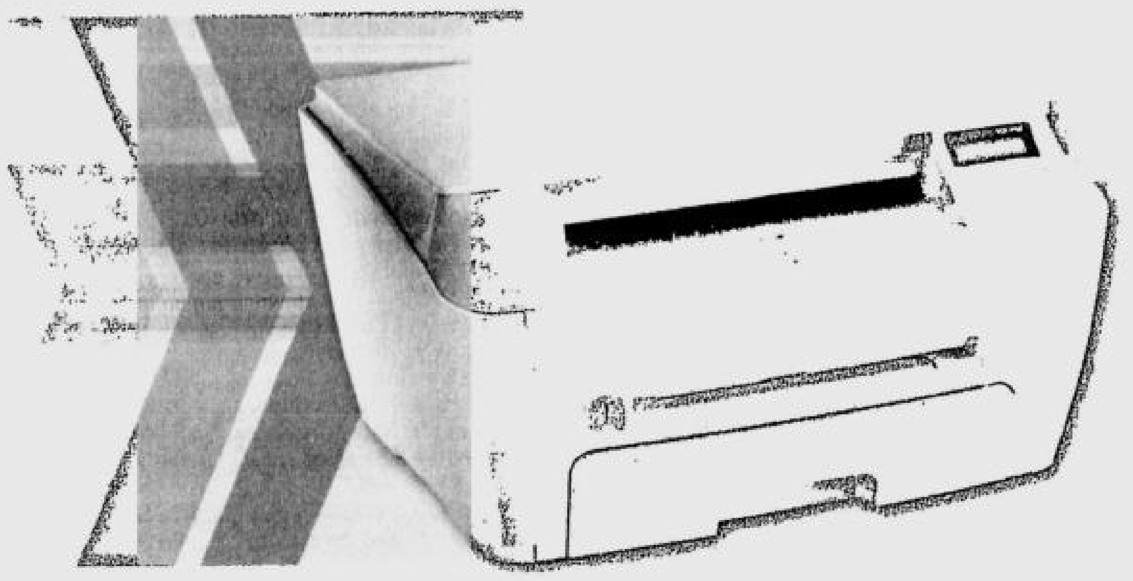

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Review schools' regulation studied

BAGUIO CITY—THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) is studying the legal status of review centers in the city after a nursing review school here was implicated in alleged irregularities during the June 11 and 12 licensing examinations.

Magdalena Jasmin, CHEd Cordillera director, said all of the review centers that the commission has encountered, which offer crash courses for aspiring lawyers, nurses and other professions, "only operate using business licenses issued by local governments," and are therefore beyond the jurisdiction of state education regulators.

About 100 nursing graduates and deans of nursing schools in Baguio have petitioned the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to delay the release of the test results on July 2, and to put the members of the board of nursing under "preventive suspension" pending an investigation of the alleged irregularities.

They claimed that the R.A. Gapuz Review Center distributed copies of the test questions and answers that were allegedly leaked to the reviewers by a member or members of the nursing review board.

The review center's officials said the complainants might have mistaken for "leakage" their routine distribution of "emergency" test scenarios on the eve of each licensing examinations.

Jasmin said the existence of review schools should concern government educators because "their continued operation is an implied criticism of the way our education system has failed, and we should not let this slide."

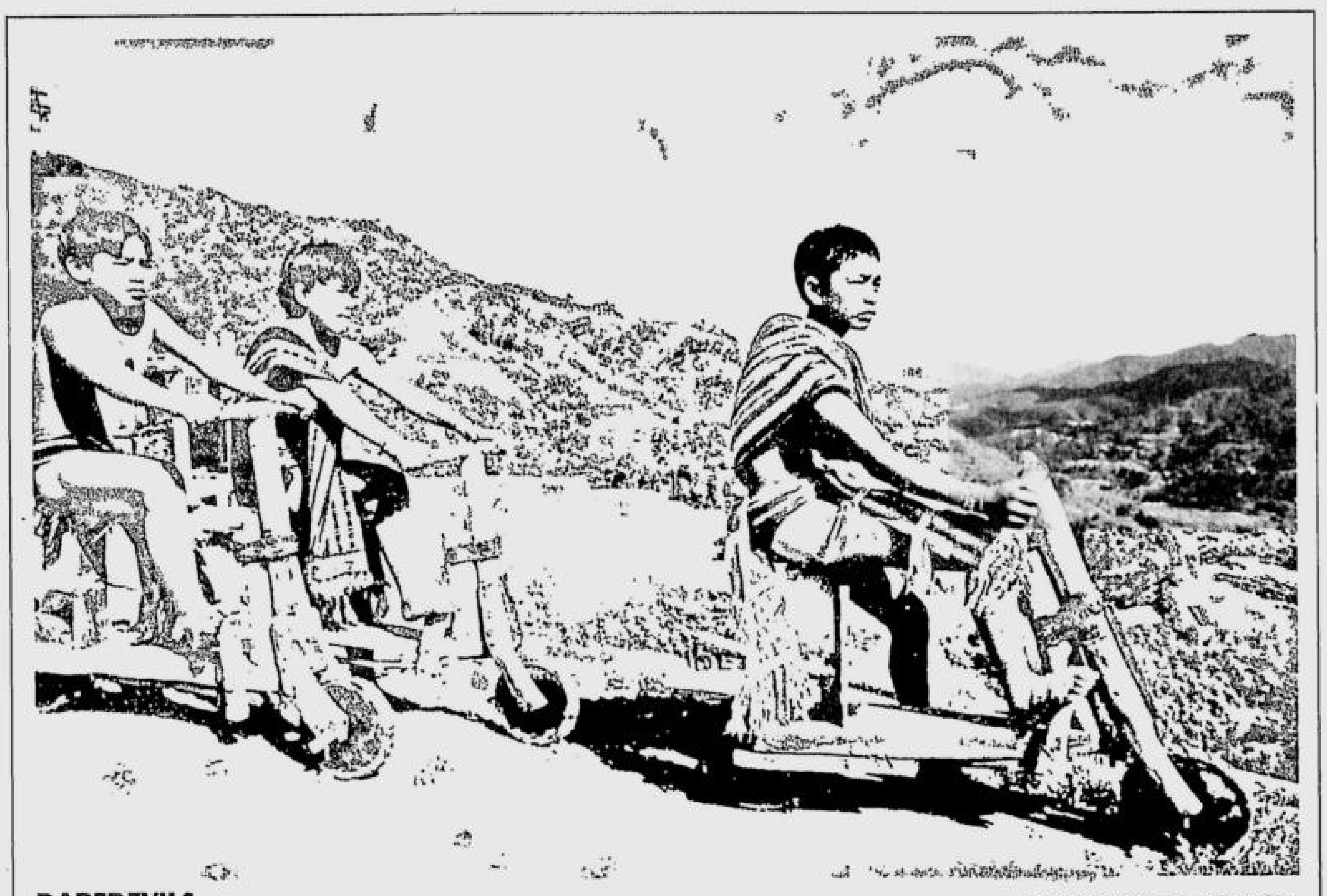
Officials of Baguio's nursing community also asked the city council to investigate the alleged irregularities.

Mary Grace Lacanaria, Cordillera president of the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing (ADPCN), and Norenia Dao-ayen, Baguio chapter president of the Philippine Nurses Association, urged the council to intercede on their behalf to prod PRC to immediately act on the allegations.

"Although the examinees, who claimed that there was leakage, were examinees from Baguio City, we were not discounting the possibility that the phenomenon could have happened nationwide," Lacanaria and Dao-ayen said in a June 23 letter to the council.

"We are saddened by the fact that action coming from PRC and our own nursing leaders is slow. We feel that the initiative of the [Baguio] examinees will open a can of worms [which explains] the sweeping [PRC] statement ... that 'there is no leakage.' A conclusion has been arrived and yet no investigation has been conducted," they said.

The council voted on Monday to pass a resolution that warned the PRC against a "whitewash" of the investigation of the alleged irregularities in the recent nursing board examinations. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



DAREDEVILS

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Children of Banaue, Ifugao take off in their wooden scooters for a motocross publicity tour. Children ride the scooters around steep terrain and upland villages.

6 S. Cotabato cops in trouble for pawning guns

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—SIX policemen in South Cotabato are under fire for allegedly pawning their issued firearms.

Chief Supt. German Doria, Central Mindanao police chief, vowed to crack the whip on the erring policemen of the Sto. Niño municipal police station.

If proven guilty, Doria said, the policemen would be dismissed from the service.

"What they did was tantamount to grave misconduct and the penalty for this is dismissal from the service," Doria said.

Doria learned about the pawned service firearms of six Sto. Niño policemen after a raid conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in a pawnshop in Tupi town on Monday.

NBI men and members of the Sto. Niño police recovered six firearms which later were found to be issued to the policemen.

Some of the policemen who joined in the raid were shocked upon learning that the NBI operation was meant to recover pawned government-issued firearms.

Lawyer Boye Mama, NBI chief here, refused to divulge the names of the policemen. He, however, said owners of the pawned government firearms have been frequenting the NBI office here pleading that their firearms be released to them.

The NBI secured a search warrant after a civilian informed the NBI that the service firearms of some policemen in Sto. Niño were pawned.

Doria said he ordered an inventory of all government-issued firearms.

"We would like to account for all the government-issued firearms in South Cotabato...," said Doria. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Dead man found at sea bottom

VIRAC, Catanduanes—A businessman, who was diving for fish as a sport, found the body of a man at the bottom of Cabugao Bay just 20 meters from the shore. Larry S. Que said he was with four other men on Tuesday morning, about to catch fish near the Virac port when he ventured offshore. When he dived, he was shocked to find a man lying face down at the bottom about four meters below. Barangay captain Nelson Marzo said the man could have been killed less than six hours earlier as blood was still flowing from a wound near his right eye. The dead man was described as in his mid-40s, slim, about 5'3" in height, dark complexioned and long-haired. He wore a yellow-green polo shirt and black boxer shorts while the front of his right thigh bore a "Sputnik" tattoo. The body was taken to the Eastern Bicol Medical Center for autopsy.

Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 new priests in Laguna

SAN PABLO CITY—The bishop of San Pablo ordained four new priests in Laguna on Thursday for the first time since he assumed office last year. Ordained by Most Rev. Leo Murphy Drona were Fathers Christian Edward L. Abao, Francis Eugene A. Fadul, Niño B. Formeloza, and Emil B. Laraño. The city has about 2 million Catholic residents.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Robbers kill guard

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—A security guard was killed by robbers who took at least 14 drums of diesel from the compound of a construction firm here on Sunday. The body of Junel Britanico, 43, a security guard of Leadway Construction and Development Corp., was found by another guard on Monday. His hands and feet were tied and his face wrapped with masking tape. He had wounds in the head. Police said 14 drums of diesel were missing.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bomb attack death toll now 7

AMPATUAN

COTABATO CITY—Another relative of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan died two days after Friday's car-bomb explosion in Shariff Aguak town, bringing the death toll to seven. Maguindanao police chief Supt. Lumala Gunting said the latest fatality, Datu Tee Uy, 8, died on Sunday while being treated in a hospital here. The bomb was placed in a Suzuki multi-cab parked in front of the town's newly-built market. Earlier, six people were killed, including a 3-year-old girl and two relatives of Governor Ampatuan who survived the attack unhurt. Gunting said the boy was outside their house during the explosion.

Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ambulances for ARMM

COTABATO CITY—Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan has approved the purchase of at least five ambulances and the construction of more municipal health stations to improve the delivery of health services in the region, where mortality rate is high. "The health of my people is one of my priority concerns," he said. Ampatuan also ordered provincial and municipal health officials to regularly report to their offices.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Baguio courts fall silent as 4 of 7 judges penalized

HON. CLARENCE J. VILLANUEVA
EXECUTIVE JUDGE

THIS is the courtroom of Regional Trial Court Judge Clarence Villanueva, the only judge among seven feuding members of Baguio's judiciary, who was dismissed by the Supreme Court for concealing two illegitimate children. The judges' feud had kept operations at the Justice Hall tense for the past four years.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—THE JUSTICE Hall here fell silent on Wednesday with many courtrooms closed for the day, just as news broke out that the Supreme Court had dismissed one and penalized four of the seven regional trial court judges.

Judges Clarence Villanueva, Antonio Reyes and Amado Caguioa suspended their trial schedules between 9 and 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The courtroom door of Villanueva, in particular, drew court employees because it was marked with the sign, "Judge on leave."

The SC dismissed Villanueva for concealing the fact that he sired two children with another woman while he was still married.

Judge Ruben Ayson implicated Villanueva, Reyes, Caguioa, Judges Antonio Esteves, Edilberto Claravall and now-Pasig City Judge Abraham Borreta in different violations by injecting his accusations in a 2002 executive order he penned for another case.

Among the violations is an incident when at least three judges gambled inside the court at a party, for which the high court fined them P2,000 each.

One of the penalized judges said he would appeal the high court's decision.

Reyes said the SC decision had further divided the judges. He was discounting any reconciliation even after four years of tension in the Justice Hall.

"These are very deep wounds and these are so deep I can hardly feel the sting anymore," said Reyes.

The feud had also polarized the city's lawyers, who took sides during an investigation conducted by the Court of Appeals.

Some members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' local chapter criticized Ayson for going public instead of bringing his complaints straight to the high court.

Other IBP members defended Ayson for blowing the whistle on the Baguio judges' alleged misdeeds.

Lawyer Abelardo Estrada, IBP Baguio-Benguet chapter president, said their only concern were rumors that most of the judges would be suspended.

"It will take three weeks sometimes to replace a judge, although I am sure the SC will appoint interim judges so the Baguio courts will continue functioning," he said.

Except for Villanueva's dismissal, none of the judges was suspended. Reyes was fined P30,000 for dining at the expense of the Baguio Country Club despite the fact that he was hearing several cases about its ownership.

He was also in the middle of a suit filed by Ramon Ilusorio, one of the heirs of Potenciano Ilusorio, one of the BCC's majority shareholders.

Borreta was fined P10,000 for acting as counsel in a Baguio land deal, while Caguioa was fined P10,000 for allowing a court employee to act on his behalf in several adoption cases.

Borreta, Caguioa and Esteves were fined P2,000 each for gambling inside court premises.

The SC dismissed the complaint against Claravall, whom Ayson criticized for making him a subject of a joke. Among the feuding judges here on Wednesday, only Esteves proceeded with his court schedule.

Ayson said "the SC has spoken" and declined to further comment on the ruling. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops hunt 2 MILF men in bomb attack

COTABATO CITY—POLICE IN THE Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) launched a manhunt against two Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commanders who were allegedly involved in the failed attempt on the life of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan.

But Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, ARMM police chief, said there was no deadline for the capture of Jamil Ombra and Sajid Pakiladato.

Mamalinta said policemen have started scouring some areas of Maguindanao.

Ombra is commander of the MILF's 105th Base Command while Pakiladato is his deputy.

"We are now running after them. These are criminal acts and they should be punished accordingly," Mamalinta said.

Seven people were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near the Shariff Aguak town public market as a convoy bearing Ampatuan was passing by.

Investigators said the type of the bomb used in Friday's explosion, which also injured at least 10 people, were similar to the 2003 explosion that killed Datu Piang Mayor Saudi Ampatuan, a son of the governor.

Police also tagged Ombra and Pakiladato in the earlier attack. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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BONDOC PENINSULA UNREST

NGOs agitating farmers, says landlord

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

A SCION OF ONE OF THE BIGGEST landlords in the Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon province rues how his family has been ill-portrayed as "unjust and despotic" in recent media coverage of a group of farmers who chose to be jailed in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

> '(They) opted to stage … rallies instead of working with us in building their new community,' says scion; 'It's a normal reaction from landlords,' says PEACE Foundation

"Our family has been unfairly treated in the media through these outsider nongovernment organizations and farmers' groups," said Mayor Victor Reyes of San Narciso town in Quezon.

Reyes, 44, said it was ironic that the agrarian unrest would be fomented by the NGOs and groups that professed to support and protect the farmers' rights.

Last month, a group of farmers gave themselves up at the Philippine National Police headquarters to face 187 criminal cases filed against them by the Reyes family and other big landowners in the Bondoc Peninsula. The charges include qualified theft, estafa to trespassing.

They said they chose to "surrender" rather than face alleged harassment by the landlords, their lawyers and goons. They are pressing for ownership of certain coconut-producing areas in San Narciso, San Francisco and San Andres under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Reyes is the youngest of nine children of the late Domingo Reyes, a shipping magnate, politician and known crony of the former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, who, based on media reports, owned at least 12,000 hectares of land in the three municipalities.

An elder brother, Ramon, is the mayor of Buenavista, where their father ruled for decades as vice mayor and eventually as mayor. The patriarch died in November 2005.

'Only 1,142 hectares'

The young Reyes corrected the reported figures of the family's total land ownership. He claimed that the family actually owned only 1,142 hectares of titled pasture land and coconut plantation in Villa Reyes in San Narciso and San Andres, and another 100 has of land in Buenavista.

"Most of the parcels of land have already been distributed by my late father to all his children and his more than 50 grandchildren. Some have a big share, some have none, including my own kids," Reyes said with a laugh.

But he admitted to maintaining around 1,400 has of land in San Narciso under a Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement (Sifma) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"It's now a vast forested area planted with huge trees. I want to fulfill my mandated role as a local government official and be a part of the government's reforestation program," said Reyes, a known advocate of environmental protection in Quezon.

For three consecutive years, San Narciso has been awarded the "Gawad ng Pangulo sa Kapaligiran-4th Class Municipality" by the national government. A fourth-class municipality has an annual income ranging from P13 million to P21 million over the last three years.

The town's coastal waters have also been known as strictly off-limits to illegal fishers.

Timberland

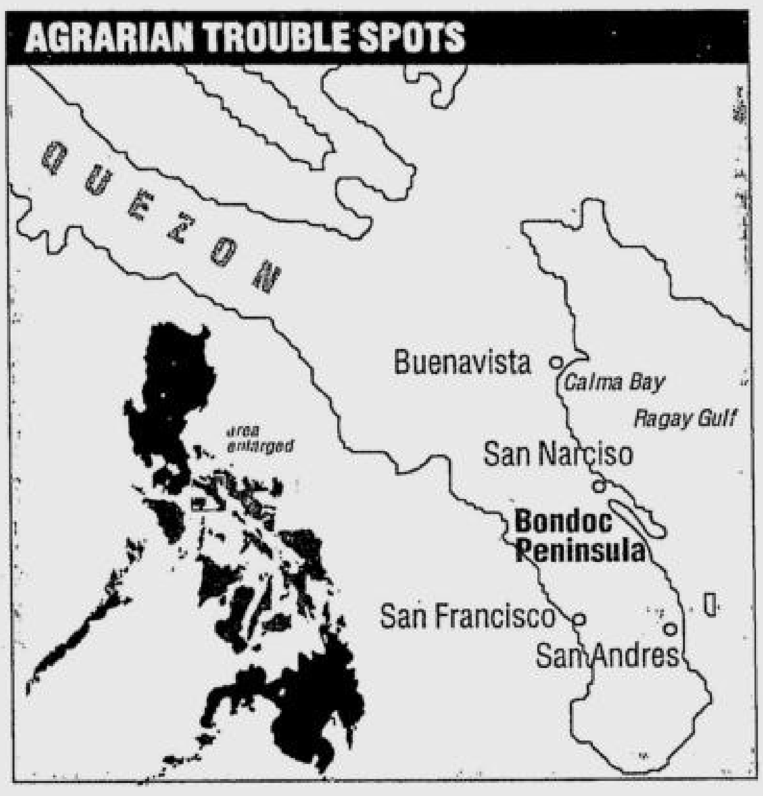
But one of the NGOs supporting the farmers is standing firm on the Reyes family's total landholding of 12,000 has.

"The Reyeses' landholdings are a combination of titled and nontitled tracts of land, including a vast timberland which they also claim as theirs," said Danny Carranza, land tenure improvement program coordinator of the Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment (PEACE) Foundation.

VICTOR Reyes, the young "haciendero" is shown in this 1977 photo with his family's cattle herd.

THE SCION is now the mayor of San Narciso, Quezon.
DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

AGRARIAN TROUBLE SPOTS



Carranza said the foundation had recorded at least nine land titles covering 14.79 has each and registered in the names of Domingo Reyes' grandchildren.

Another 15 land titles, with a total area of 930 has, are registered in the names of Domingo's children and Viva Shipping Lines, which used to be owned and operated by the Reyeses, he said. The shipping line stopped plying the Marinduque-Lucena and Masbate-Lucena routes in early 2000.

Carranza described the land titles of the Reyeses as "*magulo*" (problematic).

"They also have a lot of pending applications for titles even for timberland areas in San Narciso and San Andres, to which they are claiming ownership," he said.

Carranza urged all the stakeholders—the Reyeses, farmers, the Department of Agrarian Reform, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—to come together in a dialogue and clarify all the gray areas so the truth could be ferreted out.

A check with the DAR office in Gumaca supported Reyes' figures.

"Based on the records of our office, the Reyeses have only close to 3,000 hectares of titled properties in the Bondoc Peninsula," said Alejandro Cruz, provincial agrarian reform officer, said.

Compromise offer

Reyes said his family was willing to drop all the charges against the "farm workers" and would help release those in jail if they accepted their offer of 590 has of land to be distributed to all petitioners and nonpetitioners settling in Villa Reyes. Based on the family's records, around 300 families live on the land, he said.

He said they had been offering the parcel of land at the back of Villa Reyes to all the farmers long before the agrarian troubles started.

Cruz confirmed Reyes' offer to the farmers but said the landowners had presented only a "deed of sale" as proof of ownership of the land but without the corresponding title.

The DAR officer said that when he checked with the register of deeds, he found that the title for the tract of land had been canceled as most of it had been classified as timberland.

"But we believe that the Reyeses acquired the land in good faith," Cruz said. Reyes said the family bought the property from a certain Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo in 1992 for P3.5 million.

The mayor acknowledged that the title had been canceled but clarified that when his father first made the offer, the Mondoñedo estate still had a valid title.

Reyes said DAR personnel had discouraged them from giving away the land for free. "We were told that with the experience of the DAR, doled-out lands were often just wasted by the beneficiaries."

At present, the land is worth P15,000 per hectare, payable in installment for a period of 10 years.

Unsuitable for farming

One of the farmers who are in jail in Gumaca town explained why they all rejected the offer.

"That land is not suitable for farming. Besides, it's too far from our former farmland and it would take almost one whole day of walking," Henaro Saul said in an earlier interview.

Reyes argued that the main spirit of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program "is the distribution of land and not the farm products therein."

He said that CARP beneficiaries should be the ones to cultivate the land and make it productive.

He said the municipal government unit had already earmarked P240,000 for the survey of the land for distribution.

The DAR has also allocated P12 million for the construction of the access road to the area, he said.

He said they have started negotiating with concerned national government agencies to begin the development of the site.

"Unfortunately, the farmers and NGO agitators opted to stage these protests and rallies instead of working with us in building their new community," Reyes lamented.

The PEACE Foundation's Carranza said blaming the NGOs as a group of rabble-rousers was an insult to the farmers. "It's a normal reaction from landlords like the Reyeses," he said.

Acquisition

The mayor traced the ownership of the large parcels of land to 1920 when his grandfather, Gregorio Reyes, bought 400 hectares of forested land from a Portuguese named Victor Alfonso.

He said his father later bought the surrounding areas.

"My father was only 3 years old in 1927 when our grandfather sailed to Burias Island in Masbate and bought his initial herd of cattle. From there, our stocks of cattle grew in number, aside from the stocks of carabaos and goats. Our family is really fond of maintaining pasture animals," Reyes said.

In the 1950s, after the death of his father in 1947, Domingo began to plant coconut trees in the pasture land and to build wooden ships, which started the fleet of the family-owned Viva Shipping Lines.

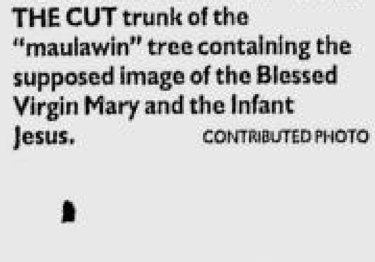
At that time, the only means of travel for Bondoc residents was barges and wooden ships that sailed in the Tayabas Bay and docked at Cotta port in Lucena City.

"He hired workers from Leyte, Samar and Masbate to take care of the animals, build ships, and plant coconuts during his spare time," Reyes recalled.

"The farm workers helped my father in his cattle breeding and in return, the entire Reyes clan helped them and their families in various ways. There were no problems then," he said.

He showed a copy of documents purportedly signed and thumb-marked by at least 400 farmers from Barangay Tala, San Andres in February 1983, attesting that they were hired as farm workers of the Reyes patriarch.

'Maulawin' image draws Marian devotees



THE CUT trunk of the "maulawin" tree containing the supposed image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Romulo Ponte
Sta. Cruz, Laguna

A "HOLY" IMAGE EN-shrined in an Aglipayan church in Sta. Cruz, Laguna is drawing many devotees who believe it is miraculous.

"The image of the Virgin is sharply shown on both sides of the cut *maulawin* trunk, and is not engraved or drawn. Both surfaces of the trunk are very smooth because a carpenter's saw or ripsaw was used in cutting the *maulawin*," said Fernando Tobias, a local Marian devotee.

On June 4, the feast day of Sta. Cruz, the town celebrated the 96th anniversary of the discovery of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding a baby on the wood. The image has been called the Our Lady of the Virgin of Maulawin, the patroness of the local Aglipayan church.

Loggers' find

A document written by Asuncion R. Fernandez and Trinidad C. Juanillo, teachers of the Pedro Guevarra Memorial National High School in Sta. Cruz, tells the story of the discovery of the image:

In May 1909, Felipe Reyno and other loggers went to a mountain called Bagumbong in Jalajala, Rizal. Among the trees they cut before a heavy downpour occurred was a *maulawin*.

When the rains subsided, the group had the *maulawin* log pulled by a carabao. To their surprise, it slid ahead of the animal.

When the log reached the Sta. Cruz port, nobody bought it. A certain Tomas Santos, popularly called Mang Tomeng, begged the sellers to give the log to him for use as a post for his cows' shelter.

On June 4, 1910, a Saturday, Santos decided to have the wood cut. While a carpenter was sawing the log, he was shocked to see on the surface of the cut trunk an image of the Blessed Mother and the Infant Jesus.

Neighbors learned about the incident and started to flock to the place.

Images of Mother and Son appeared on all the cut portions, but Santos had the sharpest and most visible one.

Dazzling light

He gave his image to one Hipolito Pimentel or Mang Poleng, who kept it at a makeshift shelter at Daang Malusak, which is now called Apolinario Mabini Street.

From time to time, people would come and visit the shelter to scrutinize the trunk.

One night, an extraordinary dazzling light suddenly appeared in the place, after which even more visitors came.

At that time, a certain Maria Maulawin was reportedly performing miraculous healing of patients. Many people believed that the woman was living in the small house where the cut trunk was kept, but it was later found that nobody was staying there.

The caretakers of the miraculous image decided to have it blessed. They asked that a Mass be said at the place, which they called the Church of the Poor (Simbahang Maralita).

When the trunk was photographed, a sharper, clearer image of the Blessed Virgin and the Infant Jesus appeared.

On June 4, 1911, the Church of the Aglipayans celebrated a thanksgiving Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin. The huge number of devotees who came led to the declaration of the date as the feast day of Sta. Cruz.

Bishop files impeachment complaint

From page A1

charges are not dismissed on technicalities.

It was endorsed by left-wing party-list Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales, who joined in carrying peach-colored balloons as a symbol of impeachment.

The Constitution allows one impeachment case against the President in a year.

But because it is unclear when the one-year period begins after a similar attempt was made last year, opponents of the President have decided to file impeachment complaints every day for one week, repeating the charges contained in the first one lodged on Monday.

The charges include culpable violation of the Constitution in connection with claims Ms Arroyo rigged the May 2004 election, graft and corruption and abuse of authority which allegedly stemmed from an attempt to cover up the controversies and which led to political killings and muzzling of dissenters.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles slammed Iñiguez, accusing him of engaging in partisan political activity.

"We would like stricter interpretation of the separation of Church and state," Nograles said. "Maybe it's all right to express one's views as a Filipino but when you start involving yourself in a purely political process, it becomes a partisan political activity."

Truth is apolitical

The 65-year-old prelate told reporters that as a concerned citizen he wanted to join the search for the truth amid the crisis of legitimacy hounding the Arroyo presidency that had undermined the "civility of the country for quite sometime."

Iñiguez said he did not believe that he should disassociate himself from politics. Faith and religion, he said, should contribute to the development of society.

He said filing an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo may be regarded as a purely political process.

"But it's in the context of coming up with the truth and the truth is apolitical. This is not the CBCP. It's actually the citizens and I think Malacañang should know what are the legal contents of the law of impeachment," Iñiguez said.

He said he hoped that the President would see the light after her meeting with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome on Monday in the course of her seven-day European trip.

"I hope her encounter with the Pope will bring some conversion to the President so we are praying for her and for the country," he said.

The President said after a 20-minute meeting with Pope Benedict XVI that he was very supportive of her policies and did not look kindly on Church meddling in her affairs.

The CBCP has issued several pastoral letters urging the President to put a closure to controversies dogging her 5-year-old administration, including the "Hello Garci" wiretaps.

The opposition said the recordings were evidence Ms Arroyo tampered with the May 2004 elections. This prompted the filing of three impeachment cases against her in the House last year.

Because Oliver Lozano, 66, who led agitation for the return of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, was first to file the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, her majority allies in the House threw out the opposition petition. The pro-Arroyo forces then promptly killed the Lozano initiative, saying it lacked form and substance.

The opposition has said that Lozano is a Palace straw man and that his complaint last year was meant to keep Ms Arroyo in power, not to oust her. Lozano's complaint last year was endorsed by an administration lawmaker.

On Tuesday, Lozano notified the House that he was refiling his old case that was dismissed, pointing out that June 28 was officially the start of the one-year period for the filing of a new impeachment case against the President, not June 26, as the opposition suggested. He said he filed his impeachment case on June 27, 2005, a month before the opposition did.

'Men with older brothers ...

From page A1

being homosexual, a finding that researchers say adds weight to the idea of a biological basis for sexual orientation.

"It's likely to be a prenatal effect," said Anthony F. Bogaert of Brock University in St. Catharines, Canada, "This and other studies suggest that there is probably a biological basis for homosexuality."

S. Marc Breedlove of Michigan State University said the finding confirmed a physical basis absolutely.

"Anybody's first guess would have been that the older brothers were having an effect socially, but this data doesn't support that," Breedlove said in a telephone interview.

The only link between the brothers is the mother, and so the effect has to be through the mother, especially since stepbrothers didn't have the effect, according to Breedlove, who was not part of the research.

4 groups of men

Bogaert studied four groups of gay and straight Canadian men—944 people in all—and analyzed the number of brothers and sisters each had, whether they lived with those siblings and whether the siblings were related by blood or adopted.

In a paper appearing in this month's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Bogaert said that having several biological older brothers increased the chance that a man would be gay.

It's an effect that can be detected with one older brother and becomes stronger with three or four or more, Bogaert said in a telephone interview.

But this needed to be looked at in context of the overall rate of homosexuality in men, which he suggested was about 3 percent.

With several older brothers, the rate may increase from 3 percent to 5 percent but that still means 95 percent of men with several older brothers are heterosexual, according to Bogaert.

The effect of birth order on male homosexuality has been reported previously, but Bogaert's work is the first designed to rule out social or environmental effects.

Biological effect

Bogaert said he concluded the effect was biological by comparing men with biological brothers to those with brothers to whom they were not biologically related.

The increase in the likelihood of being gay was seen only in those whose brothers had the same mothers, regardless of whether they were reared together, he said.

Men reared with several older stepbrothers or adopted brothers do not have an increased chance of being gay.

"So what that means is that the environment a person is raised in really makes not much difference," Bogaert said.

What makes a difference is having older brothers who shared the same womb and gestational experience, suggesting the difference is because of "some sort of prenatal factor," according to him.

Bogaert suggested that one possibility was a maternal immune response to succeeding male fetuses.

"These results support a prenatal origin to sexual orientation development in men and indicate that the fraternal birth-order effect is probably the result of a maternal 'memory' for male gestations or births," Bogaert said in his report in the PNAS issue in June.

The mother may react to a male fetus as "foreign"—but not to a female fetus because the mother also is female.

It might be like the maternal immune response that can occur when a mother has Rh-negative blood but her fetus has Rh-positive blood. Without treatment, the mother can develop antibodies that may attack fetuses during future pregnancies.

"If this immune theory were correct, then the link between the mother's immune reaction and the child's future sexual orientation would probably be some effect of maternal anti-male antibodies on the sexual differentiation of the brain," Bogaert suggested.

Whether that's what happens remains to be seen. But it is a provocative hypothesis, according to a commentary by Breedlove, David A. Puts and Cynthia L. Jordan, all of Michigan State.

The research was financed by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

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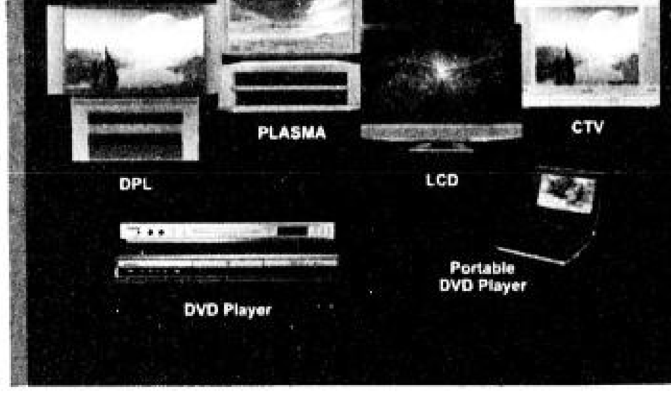

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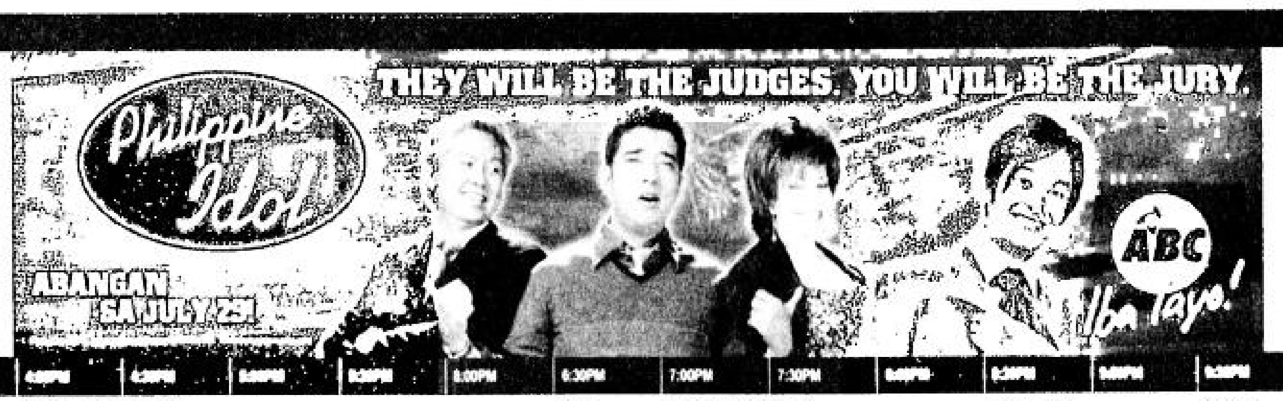
TV GUIDE

Thursday, June 29, 2006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Cinemax				Buffalo Soldiers			Lone Star					One False Move			Dinocroc			Something To Talk About	
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Crime/Suspense		Crossing Jordan		Law & Order SVU		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order SVU		What Should You Do?		Cold Case		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		I Survived		Building The Biggest		Before We Ruled The Earth		Walking w/ Prehistoric Beasts		Extreme Engineering		Mean Machine	Connect	Mythbusters		Building The Biggest		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean Animated Series	Totally Spies	[illegible]	Suite Life Of Zack & Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Tutenstein	Lizzie Mcguire	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		World Pool '03 Holland		Winter X Games 9 Day 1				In The Driver's Seat		Pool Stars Mosconi Cup	Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Germany	World Pool Ch'ship '03	Sportscenter Asia			Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Tonight Show w/ Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Sacraments Through Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record w/ Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1 (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Empire		Inside The Osmonds				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Doc Martin		Spooks		Hawking			Spooks
HBO			Darling Lili			Dark Avenger (5:15PM)				Outbreak (6:55PM)				The Ring Two			Back To The Future 2		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Shadow Of The Elves	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	Bakuten G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D I C E	Super Gals	Mission Odyssey
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		ME TV		Travel Philippines	Japan Asia Topics Ame	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Show With David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	[illegible]		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'D		[illegible]	MTV Hits (with SMS)					Got Spotted	MTV Hits		Ultrasound	TRL		Punk'D		[illegible]	Rockola
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	N G Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science Angry Earth		Top 5 - Tornado		[illegible]		About Asia		N G Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science Earth's Core	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Ed.	[illegible]	[illegible]		Tinig ng Bayan				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob Squarepants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Nick Kicks	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bilang Na Ang Oras Mo				Sumpaan				Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw				Laging Naroon Ka				Secrets Of Katrina [illegible]
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Scrapped Princess	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	The Best Of O' Mare Ko		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Poker Hour
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		Swatch FIVB '06 Men–Swatch FIVB '06 Wmns-		NBA Greatest Game 5 '05 Finals					NBA Greatest Game Pistons vs. Spurs '06			Solar Sports Desk	Solar Sports Desk	World Tenpin Masters ep 14					
Sports Plus			Golf Today	FIFA World Cup '06 Match 56 Round 16						Million Peso Poker Tour '06				World Game		Auto Focus		FIFA World Cup '06 Match 55 Round 16	
Star Movies	Iris Effect (2:20 PM)			The Whole Ten Yards			The Lizzie Mcguire Movie (5:40 PM)			Picture Perfect (7:10 PM)				Stage Beauty				Twisted (10:50PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	The Simple Life The Simpson Rock Star Spouse		Scrubs	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	Seinfeld	The Simple Life The Simpson Rock Star Spouse
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Videos		Joey (8:20 PM)	Ghost Whisperer (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

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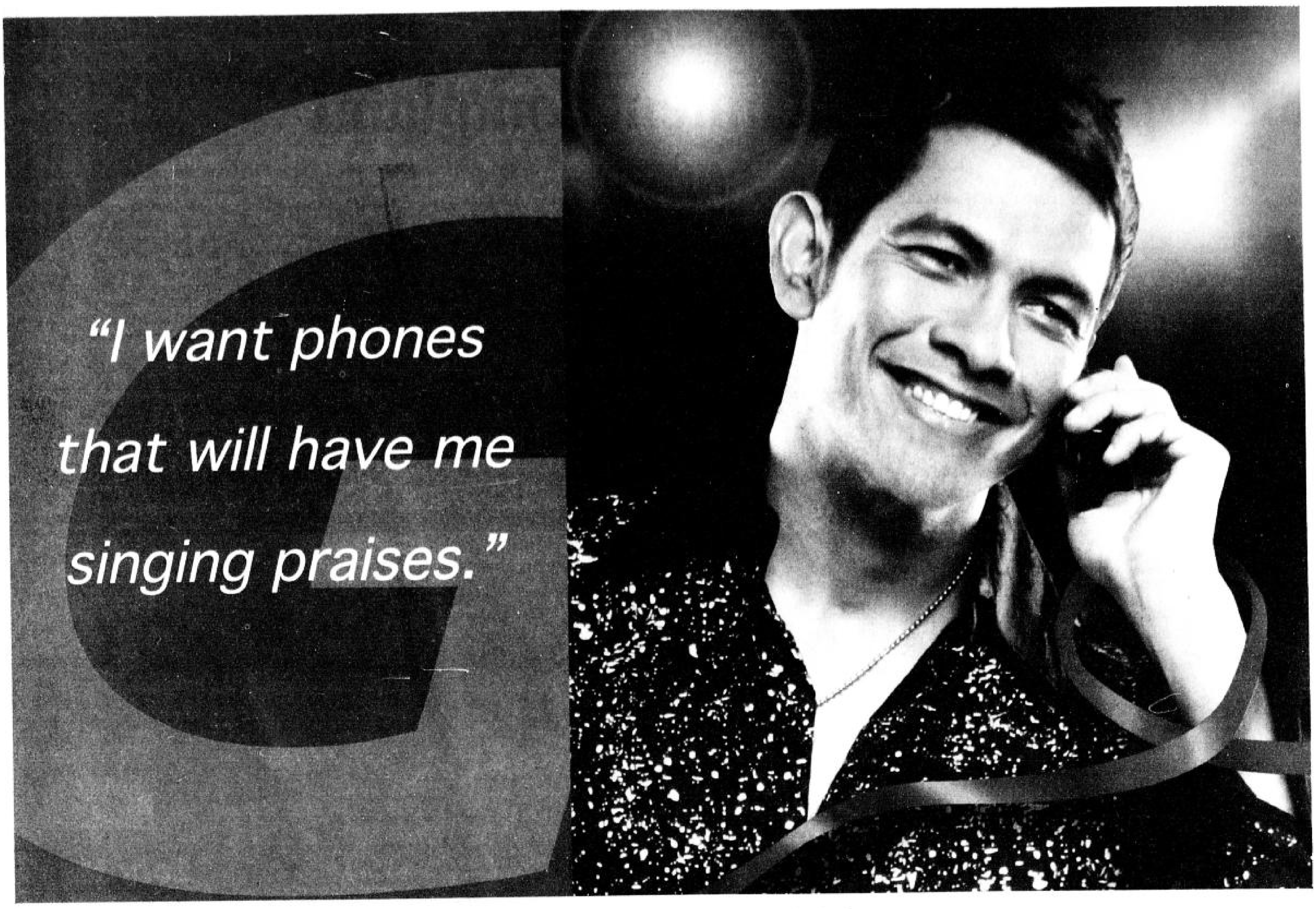

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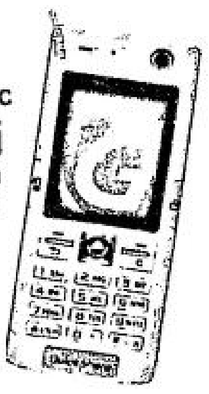

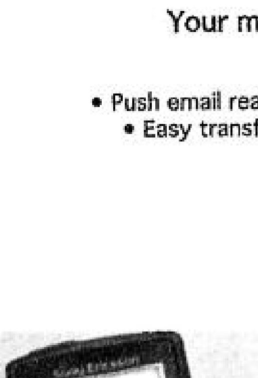

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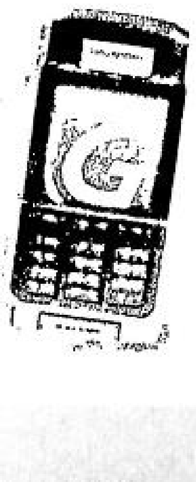

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No more police escorts for VIPs

Exemptions include those who get death threats

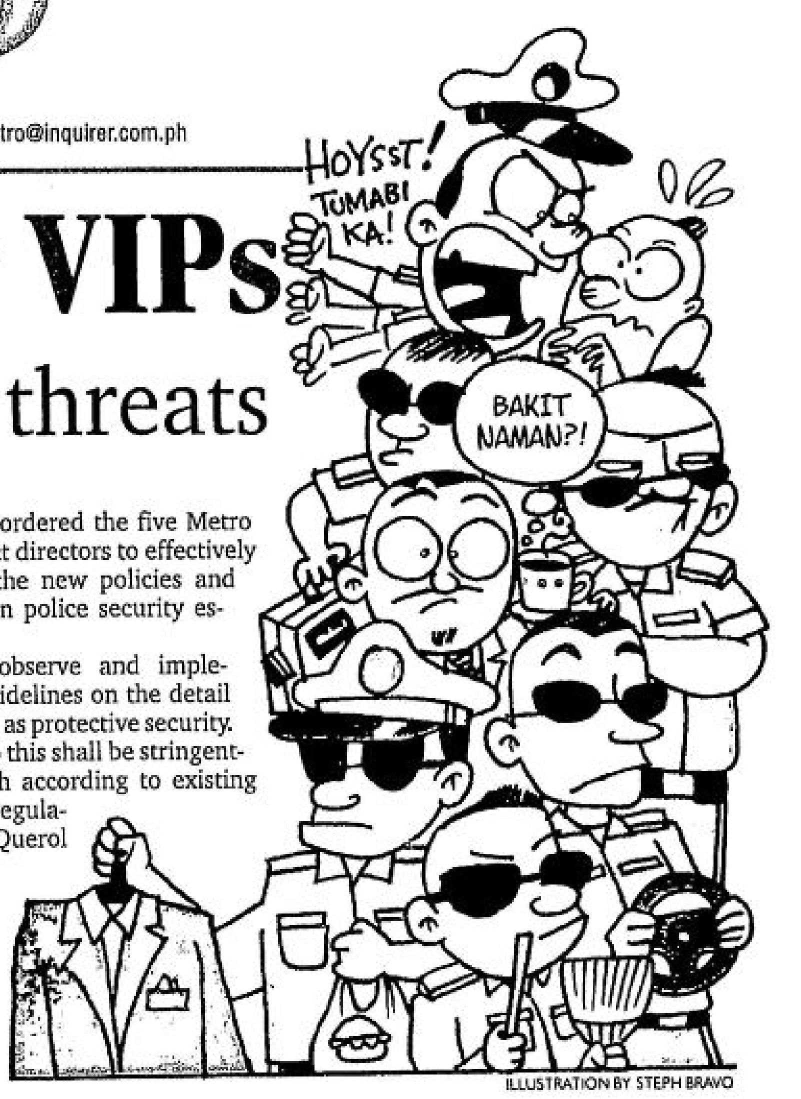

HOYSST! TUMABI KA!
BAKIT NAMAN?!

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POlice Office (NCRPO) has ordered the pullout of all Metro policemen assigned to provide security to government officials beginning July 1.

In a memorandum circular, Senior Supt. Danilo Pelisco said that public officials could only request the service from the police if they are "under actual threat(s) of death or physical harm and that the threats, after due evaluation, are assessed to be imminent or highly possible."

Pelisco, chief of the NCRPO Regional Personnel and Records Management Division, however, said the security arrangement could be scrapped anytime or according to the needs of the Philippine National Police.

Those who want to request for security should write to Director General Arturo Lomibao, the PNP chief, Pelisco added.

Following the issuance of the memorandum, Chief Supt. Juan Urani Jr., NCRPO deputy director, reminded the five Metro police district chiefs that no uniformed personnel should be detailed as protective security to any public official expect in "highly exceptional" cases.

Exempted from the memorandum are the country's top officials—the President, Vice President, Senate president, House of Representatives speaker, the Chief Justice, and the secretaries of defense and local government.

Pelisco also stressed that only policemen with the ranks of P01 to SP03 should be detailed as security escorts. The approval of the National Police Commission chair must first be obtained in the case of higher-ranking policemen, he added.

His memorandum pointed out that policemen acting as security escorts should also keep the following in mind: They must not perform the duties of a watchman, gatekeeper, family driver, errand boy or employee.

They are also prohibited from accompanying the people they are guarding on trips abroad.

"Their duties shall be confined to protective functions and (they) must not be (used as) an instrument to harass or intimidate other people," Pelisco's memo read.

Director Vidal Querol, NCRPO chief, meanwhile, ordered the five Metro police district directors to effectively implement the new policies and guidelines on police security escorts.

"Strictly observe and implement the guidelines on the detail of personnel as protective security. Failure to do this shall be stringently dealt with according to existing rules and regulations," Querol warned.

Who are on bay polluters' roster?

By Blanche S. Rivera

SEVERAL FIRMS INvolved in the food business topped the list of Laguna de Bay polluters, according to the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) as it launched yesterday its "Pasaway sa Lawa" Awards, a variation of the mock award given by government agencies and environmentalists to water polluters.

Knotsberry Farm Manufacturing Corp., producer of ABC jelly and Jellyum; Cabalen Management Co. in Project 4, Max's in San Pablo, Laguna; McDonalds in Fairview, Avenetto Pizzeria in Visayas Avenue and Banawe Soybean Curd Food Products were in the first batch of "Pasaway" awardees.

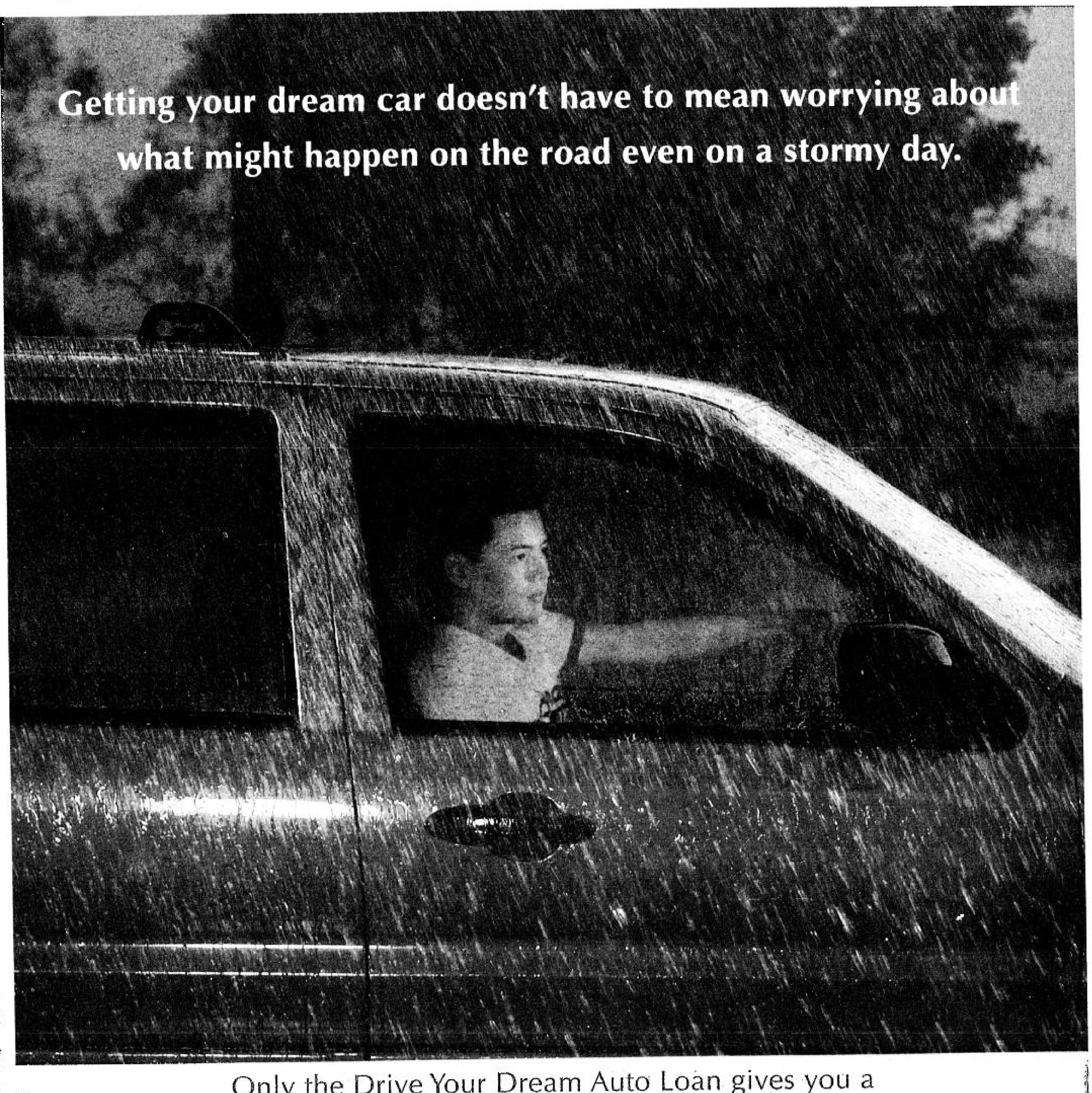
Others on list

The other "Pasaway" firms were the Wave-Federal Brent Oil Corp. in Pasay, The Blue Building-Felina Properties in Quezon City, Pepmaco Manufacturing Corp. in Laguna, HNR Pacific Industries in Caloocan, CFF Farm in Morong, Conan Enterprises in Muntinlupa and Forum Building.

LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III said the 13 firms were chosen for having repeatedly violated water quality standards.

Ynares himself served a cease-and-desist order (CDO) on Knotsberry in Tandang Sora, Quezon City and McDonalds Fairview yesterday. The CDO cited the companies' "deliberate, wanton and continuous discharge of wastewater without conforming to the effluent standards set by law."

A statement from Zonito Torrevillas, communications manager of Golden Arches Corp., however, said the McDonalds outlet was allowed to reopen late yesterday afternoon by the LLDA.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MMDA teams nabbed for dismantling billboards

MetroBriefs

2 women killed

TWO women were killed after a cargo truck hit them as they were crossing a highway in Taguig City shortly after midnight yesterday. Jonah Bondoc and Rhea Baldorado, both aged 20, sustained severe injuries and died while being treated in a hospital. The driver of the truck, Alex Obrego, surrendered to the police after the accident.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Fake hardware

CLOSE to P5 million worth of networking hardware were seized in successive raids on three Metro Manila computer shops this month, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Officers of IGlobe Technology Marketing Corp., Columbia Technologies Inc. and Leverage System Technologies now face copyright and trademark infringement charges, according to NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) chief Jose Justo Yap.

Margaux C. Ortiz

LITTLE HERO FROM TONDO CITED
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza shakes the hand of 10-year-old John Kennedy Olano Jr., who single-handedly rescued his little sister and three younger brothers when their house in Barrio Magsaysay, Tondo caught fire on June 21. Atienza promised to help the family rebuild their house and to shoulder the school expenses of the Olano children. Their father, a pedicab driver, was also offered a regular job at City Hall. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Tarra V. Quismundo

THIS IS NOT A GOOD SIGN.

Twenty-one employees of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority were arrested in Barangay Wack Wack, Mandaluyong City, early yesterday while dismantling signages and banners that had been put up by an advertising agency.

The employees were released hours later but the police and officials of Trackworks Rail Transit Advertising, Vending and Promotions Inc. proceeded to file charges against the sidewalk clearing operatives who said they were just implementing another clean-up drive.

The advertising agency, which puts up advertising banners and signages on posts of the Metro Rail Transit along Edsa, said it had all the required business permits to operate. The MMDA, however, has frowned on highway billboards which it considers as distractions.

PO2 Edmundo Fabela told the INQUIRER that Trackworks company operations manager Ed Felix showed up at the police station at about 11 p.m. Tuesday to report that MMDA sidewalk clearing operatives were tearing down signs the company had erected in Barangay Wack Wack. Policemen later accosted team leaders Cesar Bacani and Ian Vincent Villegas and three others, bringing them to the police station for a dialogue with the company representatives.

Police rushed to the scene again after learning that 16 other MMDA teams continued to take down billboards.

MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno, however, said the agency would continue to remove signages along Edsa.

"This was a policy approved by Metro mayors in last week's meeting. They agreed that the MMDA should remove billboards along Edsa that do not adhere to the building code, causing traffic on the road or blocking traffic signs and lights," he said in a phone interview.

No credentials? Let's see about that, says PNU's new president

By Tina G. Santos

AMID PROTESTS OVER HIS APpointment, the new president of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday insisted that he is qualified for the post.

"They're not aware that I am an alumnus of this university," lawyer Lutgardo Barbo told the INQUIRER in an interview over the phone. "I believe they were just rooting for another candidate and they may have felt insulted that an 'outsider' won."

Several faculty members and students of PNU staged a rally on Tuesday to voice their displeasure over Barbo's appointment, saying he did not meet some of the minimum standards set for the post.

The protesters claimed that Barbo should not have been chosen as "he does not have the administrative experience in teacher education or a related field." He also ranked last among the five candidates for the presidency, they added. But Barbo, a former governor of Eastern Samar, insisted that he has enough qualifications to carry out his new job.

"Minimum qualifications indicate that a candidate should 'preferably' be a holder of a doctorate degree. Meaning, somebody who's not may still qualify," he said, stressing that "the management, administration and development of a school shouldn't be left alone to academicians." Barbo said the Civil Service Commission considers being a lawyer as equivalent to having a master's degree. He also noted that lawyer Lilia Garcia, former PNU president, did not hold a doctorate.

Barbo also cited various jobs and posts he held that may have earned him his latest appointment. The former Senate secretary said once taught in an elementary school, was provincial chair of a school board and former faculty member of the Ateneo School of Government.

Many favor using 'lumad' vs NPA

On Target
Ramon Tulfo

THE ITEM ABOUT EMPLOYING natives or *lumad* in Mindanao to fight the New People's Army (NPA) has hit the right chord among many who are interested in solving the peace and order problem in the region.

A friend in the government said the suggestion "came out of the box," meaning it was unexpected but practical.

Another guy, a Mindanaoan, whose identity I'll withhold for the meantime, said in a text message: "I am in close contact with the supreme datu that former Army Col. Alex Noble used in his rebellion fiasco. They (the *lumad*) are more than willing to fight the NPAs on their own. What you have suggested is the ultimate solution and this can be done."

* * *

I have it on good authority **some politicians would try to prevent the use of *lumad* to fight the communist insurgents because they benefit from the NPA rebels.**

These politicians, according to reliable sources, sleep with the enemy—so to speak—because they use the rebels in illegal logging and against their political enemies. The identities of these politicians should be revealed.

* * *

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has been playing deaf to an appeal made in this space for Gil Navarra, a PPA official in Cotabato City who is confined at a Davao hospital. Navarra was seriously wounded on the job in a grenade attack at the Cotabato City port on May 22.

His family has spent a lot for his hospital and medical expenses. The PPA has stopped spending for Navarra, who is still in the hospital's intensive care unit.

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Shrine bomber nabbed

BAGHDAD—Iraq's National Security adviser on Wednesday said authorities had arrested a key al-Qaida suspect—a Tunisian—wanted in the bombing of the Shiite Golden Dome shrine last February in Samarra. Mouwafak al-Rubaie said the ringleader in the operation, an Iraqi he identified as Haitham Sabah Shaker Mohammed al-Badri, was still on the run. The bombing in Samarra set in motion a spasm of sectarian killing and revenge attacks on Sunni and Shiite mosques. Al-Rubaie identified the arrested man as Yousri Fakher Mohammed Ali, a Tunisian also known as Abu Qudama. *AP*

2 British soldiers killed

KANDAHAR—Two British soldiers died in a battle that also left 12 Taliban dead in southern Afghanistan Tuesday while two Afghan civilians lost their lives in a suicide blast aimed at a German patrol. The Afghan and US-led coalition forces meanwhile announced that 32 rebels and four Afghan soldiers were killed in various battles in the south, most of them on Monday as part of the biggest counter-insurgency operation since the Taliban were toppled from government in 2001. The death of the two British soldiers in Helmand province took to 10 the number of coalition soldiers to die in battle across Afghanistan in a week. *AFP*

Iraq frees 450 detainees

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq—About 450 detainees were released from prisons in Iraq on Tuesday under a peace plan al-Qaida-led insurgents brushed aside by vowing to carry on the bloodshed. The detainees held at Abu Ghraib and other jails run by the US military and Iraqis were freed under an amnesty contained in the national reconciliation plan presented by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on Sunday. A US military spokesperson in charge of detainee operations said all of the 2,500 inmates released are just suspected of being involved in the insurgency but have committed no violent crimes like bombing, killing, torture and kidnapping. More than 14,000 detainees remain in US custody. *AFP*

China mine explosion kills 21

BEIJING—An explosion at a coal mine in north China on Wednesday killed at least 21 workers and injured 36, the government said, in the latest incident to hit the country's disaster-plagued mining industry. Five more people were missing following the explosion in the Wulong Coal Mine in Fuxin, a city in Liaoning province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The mine is owned by the Fuxin Mining Group, a state enterprise that also owns the Sunjiawan mine where 214 people were killed in a Valentine's Day blast last year. That was China's worst mining disaster in 60 years. *AP*

US still optimistic on Iran nuke talks

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE HOUSE said Tuesday that it did not consider Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's rejection of a proposal for nuclear talks as the Islamic Republic's final word on the offer.

Spokesperson Tony Snow also suggested—then quickly retracted—that private talks between Iran and European countries were more positive than Tehran's public position might indicate.

After Khamenei said that Iran had "no use" for talks with the United States, Snow said that Washington would only recognize a formal answer given by Iran's senior nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, to European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"The position has always been the same, which is: When Mr Larijani communicates with Javier Solana, that is how we expect to have an answer to the proposal," Snow told reporters.

"There are differing voices coming out of Iran, this is the one that we and our EU partners have said would be the appropriate track for responding, and therefore that's the track that we would expect to hear through," he said.

Khamenei said Tuesday he saw "no use" in negotiating with the United States and again signalled that Tehran was unwilling to freeze sensitive nuclear work, something Washington and partners Britain, France, and Germany have made a precondition for talks.

Asked whether Iranian leaders were signalling that they would ignore a US call for a formal response to the June 6 proposal in "weeks, not months," Snow replied: "Well, no they're not." "Keep in mind that there are differences between public and private statements," he said, adding that "there have been conversations" between Iran and Britain, France and Germany "and we expect the Iranians to provide a proper answer within the span of weeks and not months." Later, pushed on whether he had meant to signal that Iran's private responses were more positive than its public statements, Snow replied: "I make absolutely no attempt to characterize — good, bad, or indifferent." "So I'm not trying to tell you that there have been positive signs through those," the spokesperson said.

A White House official, who requested anonymity, said that US allies were in touch with decision-makers in Tehran but declined to characterize the tone of those talks, and said the emphasis was on awaiting a formal Iranian response.

Although Khamenei said Iran was ready to ease international concerns over its disputed atomic drive, he said that "negotiations with the United States are of no use for us. We have no need for such negotiations." "We will not negotiate with anyone over the undeniable right of nuclear technology and using it," he added. *AFP*

N. Korea warned against talks 'bluff'

WASHINGTON—The United States on Tuesday warned North Korea against thinking it could use worries over a possible long-range missile to force the United States into direct talks.

"If it's a bluff for direct negotiations, it's not an advisable way to do it," White House spokesperson Tony Snow told a press briefing.

Reports that North Korea is about to fire a missile from a sight on the remote northeast coast of the reclusive Stalinist state have caused international concern.

President George W. Bush on Monday urged the North Korean government to disclose its plans.

"The North Koreans should notify the world of their intentions, what they have on top of that vehicle and, you know, what are their intentions," said Bush.

"We have not heard from the North Koreans, so I can't tell you what their intentions are," he told reporters. "That's part of the problem." US and Asian officials have said North Korea has prepared a Taepodong-2 missile for launch, amid a parallel standoff over the communist state's nuclear program.

North Korea has boycotted talks since November with five other nations, including the United States, over its nuclear weapons program.

It has regularly demanded direct talks with the United States. The two sides have never formally ended hostilities since the 1950-53 Korean War, which has bedeviled relations ever since.

A prominent lawmaker in Bush's Republican party meanwhile said the White House had ruled out a preemptive strike to knock out North Korea's Taepodong missiles. *AFP*

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(Sgd.) **CESAR G. GIRONELLA**
General Manager

(PDI–June 28 & 29, 2006)

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5. Pre-bid conference shall be on **July 14, 2006**, 10:00 a.m. in the Office of the BFAR-BAC Chairman, 3rd Floor, PCA Main Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Eligibility documents and bid proposals must be submitted at the BFAR-BAC Secretariat, BFAR Annex Bldg., PCA Compound, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City not later than 10:00 a.m. on **July 24, 2006** and shall be opened at the Office of the BFAR-BAC Chairman, 3rd Floor PCA, Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City, on the same date in the presence of the participating bidders.

The BFAR reserves the right to accept/reject any Bid to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI - June 29 2006)

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel launches Gaza rescue assault

GAZA CITY—ISRAEL SENT GROUND FORCES into the Gaza Strip Wednesday and knocked out bridges and a power station from the air in a predawn assault to try to save a teenage soldier held by Palestinian fighters.

Troops in tanks, armored cars and bulldozers with lights blazing rolled several kilometers into southern Gaza where the missing serviceman was believed to be held, pushing into the disused international airport near Rafah.

Much of the Gaza Strip was plunged into darkness after war planes waged night-time air strikes on the electricity plant and three bridges as flames leapt into the sky and the rattle of gunfire from combat helicopters resounded.

"We decided to use extreme means to bring Gilad (Shalit) home and we have no intention of reoccupying the Gaza Strip," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was quoted as saying by public radio referring to the abducted 19-year-old conscript.

It was the first major ground offensive against Gaza since Israel pulled settlers and troops from the impoverished coastal strip last year in a highly controversial operation that ended a 38-year occupation.

No casualties were reported in the incursion, which followed intensive mediation efforts to free Shalit after his seizure in an attack Sunday that also killed two Israeli soldiers and two militants.

The Hamas-led government denounced the operation as "unjustified military madness" and warned it would have major consequences.

Israel had massed columns of tanks and a force of about 5,000 troops on the Gaza border as Olmert ruled out any negotiation with the kidnappers, holding the Hamas government and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas responsible.

The raids followed a landmark agreement Tuesday between Palestinian factions on an political initiative that implicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist, a historic policy shift by Hamas which has long advocated the destruction of the Jewish state.

Israel dismissed the deal however as an "internal matter." The situation on the ground was further complicated when an armed Palestinian group claiming to hold the soldier also threatened to kill a Jewish settler it said it had abducted in the occupied West Bank.

"Unless the aggression stops, we will kill the settler," said a representative of the Popular Resistance Committees, which claimed Sunday's attack along with the armed wing of Hamas and another group.

Although there has been no official Israeli confirmation of the settler kidnapping, one couple reported their son missing.

The Gaza incursion came amid international appeals for restraint over the kidnapping which has triggered the worst Middle East crisis since the militant Islamist movement Hamas took office in March.

It also presented the first major security challenge for Olmert since he took office in May pledging to unilaterally redraw the map of Israel even without negotiations with the Palestinians.

Egypt, France and the Vatican, as well as key Israeli ally the United States, had sought to exert pressure on the Palestinians to hand over the soldier.

Israel said it concentrated its forces a few kilometers into southern Gaza where it believed Shalit was being held, including the Dahaniyeh area near the destroyed airport. *AFP*

AN ISRAELI soldier stands next to a line of armored vehicles in a field at a gathering point near Kibbutz Mefalsim, southern Israel, just outside the Gaza Strip, June 28. AP

THE CAPTIVE soldier. AP

Hamas-Fatah in deal implicitly recognizing Israel's existence

GAZA CITY—GOVERNING PALESTINIAN MOVEment Hamas executed a historic policy shift Tuesday in agreeing to an initiative that implicitly recognizes archfoe Israel's right to exist.

The deal, agreed after weeks of crisis talks, marks a landmark for Hamas, which formed a Palestinian government after winning January elections but which has long advocated the destruction of the Jewish state.

Israel—which is poised to launch an offensive on the Gaza Strip over the capture of one of its soldiers in an attack three days ago—dismissed the deal as a purely internal matter, while the White House also withheld comment.

Ibrahim Abu Najja, head of a cross-party Palestinian grouping, said: "With representatives of all Islamic and national forces, civil society and private sector representatives... we have reached an agreement with changes (on some points)." "That means Hamas accepts the principle of a solution (to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict) based on two states," he said, in an allusion to a Palestinian state living alongside Israel, rather than in its place.

The deal, reached by all factions but the hardline Islamic Jihad, follows weeks of intense on-off crisis talks between Hamas and the rival Fatah party of president Mahmud Abbas amid deadly feuding and fears of civil war. "It is the beginning of a new era in common and united work on all political questions, the resistance and the internal situation," trumpeted Hamas government spokesperson Ghazi Hamad.

Abbas had vowed to put the initiative to the first-ever Palestinian referendum on July 26 if there was no agreement before then, a threat Hamas slammed as an attempt to overthrow its government.

Abu Najja said the agreement, announced after an emergency meeting of faction representatives in Gaza City, would be presented to Abbas and Hamas prime minister Ismail Haniya for signing later Tuesday. *AFP*

Mahathir won't quit ruling party

KUALA LUMPUR—FORMER Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday he will not leave the ruling party and vowed to continue to speak out against his chosen successor's government.

Mahathir is embroiled in a bitter row with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi which has seen Mahathir fiercely attack the government for its handling of the economy and national affairs.

The 80-year-old Mahathir said no one had the right to demand the resignation of a member of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) which he led for 22 years.

He was responding to comments on Monday by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Aziz who suggested Mahathir leave the party as a result of the protracted quarrel.

"UMNO does not belong to Nazri. The party belongs to all Malays. Nazri has no right on his own to demand that this person or that person leaves the party," Mahathir said.

"I was in UMNO before he was born," he was quoted as saying by the Star newspaper.

The fiesty Mahathir also described Nazri as a "hatchet man among henchman" for Monday's comment against him.

Nazri made his remarks after Mahathir spoke on the weekend about the weaknesses of premier Abdullah's administration at a meeting attended by senior opposition leaders.

Nazri said Mahathir should quit UMNO for colluding with the opposition.

Mahathir, who handed power to Abdullah in 2003, still commands influence in UMNO, which is the largest political party in the country. *AFP*

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Saddam faces 2nd trial for genocide

BAGHDAD—SADDAM HUSSEIN WILL FACE A SECOND trial, for genocide against Iraq's Kurds in the 1980s, starting on Aug. 21, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi said Saddam's cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majeed, known as "Chemical Ali" for his gas attacks on the Kurds, would also be tried for genocide.

In total there would be seven people on trial in connection with the Anfal campaign in northern Iraq in the late 1980s in which Saddam is accused of killing tens of thousands of Kurds.

"When Saddam and those accused with him are executed we will feel great relief," said Kurd Ibrahim Wadi, 31, who was detained along with his family during the campaign.

Saddam is already on trial and facing hanging for crimes against humanity for the killings of 148 Shiites. That trial, which has been tarnished by the killings of three defense attorneys, could be drawing to a close, although any executions are likely to be delayed by appeals.

Forensic evidence gleaned by US military investigators from mass graves across Iraq is likely to form a major part of the prosecution case in the Anfal trial. Tens of thousands are thought to be buried in such sites. Dozens, including children shot with their mothers, have been unearthed and identified.

Many of the 1.3 million people claiming aid as refugees in Iraq were displaced under Saddam but a United Nations body said on Tuesday that 150,000 more had registered in the past four months of sectarian bloodshed, a leap of some 50,000 in a month. *Reuters*

Muhammad Ali to launch healthy food line

LOUISVILLE, KY.—JUMPING INTO THE ring with Weight Watchers, the South Beach Diet and Jenny Craig is the newest eat-healthy contender, Muhammad Ali.

In a delicate dance of legend, marketing and money, Ali plans to introduce reduced-calorie foods and beverages for young adults, evoking his status as a three-time heavyweight boxing champion and American icon.

The first products to roll out in convenience stores early next year will be packaged snacks with names like Rumble, Shuffle and Jabs—fruit-laden rolls and finger foods baked vaguely into signature shapes including boxing gloves and punching bags. Some flavors, such as barbecued chicken and Buffalo wings, are an urban twist on snack classics, while others, like sweet corn and cole slaw, evoke the farmer's market.

The new line has the lofty aim of fighting youth obesity, with no snack containing more than 150 calories. Each is fortified with vitamins and fiber, said Edward Rapp, a senior member of Ali's new company, GOAT Food and Beverage (GOAT being an acronym for—what else?—Greatest of All Time).

Whether a line of snack foods, no matter how nutritious or low in calories, cholesterol and fat, can dissuade many young Americans from disastrous and deeply ingrained eating habits remains to be seen, some nutritionists and obesity experts said.

"People are often suspicious of healthier versions of food," said Kelly D. Brownell, founder and director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale. "They assume that it won't taste good."

The new venture comes at a time when business interests are increasingly looking to sports icons, like soccer's Pele, to add magic to product lines. The global Pele business, which includes endorsements for MasterCard, Nokia and Pepsi-Cola, could earn $30 million next year, and George Foreman has earned more than $137 million for promoting the grill that bears his name.

Ali, who is battling Parkinson's syndrome, is considering how history will treat him, his wife, Lonnie, said. "What Muhammad is working on is his legacy," said Lonnie Ali, who often acts as his spokesperson. "How are people going to remember him? Muhammad says that we should all be in a race to do good." *New York Times News Service*

WHAT'S INSIDE
Unson rules San Diego tilt /A22

SPORTS
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Giants stay in the hunt /A22

We don't fear Pacman, Larios' corner insists

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TEAM OSCAR LARIOS ADMITted yesterday that they are facing "mission impossible."

Larios' Mexican agent Rafael Mendoza acknowledged that even people in Guadalajara, hometown of his fighter, think that they are up to a very difficult task fighting Filipino hero Manny Pacquiao on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Let me put it straight, we respect Manny. Fighters who don't respect him are crazy," Mendoza told the INQUIRER over breakfast at the Discovery Suite's 5 Restaurant. "But we are not afraid of him."

Mendoza later offered a different perspective over the ANC Channel, boasting that Larios would beat Pacquiao in their Mano A Mano showdown on Sunday. His rationale: Larios is the faster and better boxer.

The 29-year-old Larios, fighting for the first time after losing his World Boxing Council super bantamweight crown and moving two divisions up in the process, is "only taking the risk he had to take to make it (back) in boxing."

"They said Manny can finish Larios off in six rounds. Who knows, Manny can even finish it in one," said Mendoza. "But that's a possibility that people will only know on Sunday."

DISCOVERY Suites general manager Bobby Horrigan (left) presents Pacquiao with a monogrammed guest robe after ushering the Filipino to an exclusive three-bedroom suite.

He said Larios has been "killing" himself trying to retain his old 122-lb title when he is a natural 126-lb fighter. "This is the first time he is fighting in a weight category that he's comfortable with," added Mendoza.

This time, the former WBC titlist doesn't have to skip meals to make the 130-lb limit for the 12-round super featherweight fight where Pacquiao's WBC International crown will be at stake.

"He is not training to meet the scale, he is training to beat Pacquiao," said Mendoza.

Mendoza added that Pacquiao is a natural 126-lb fighter which makes the 12-round clash an even match.

His third round technical knockout loss to Israel Vazquez last December, explained Mendoza, was brought by an accidental head butt which was even acknowledged by the new champ's corner headed by Pacquiao's own trainer, Freddie Roach.

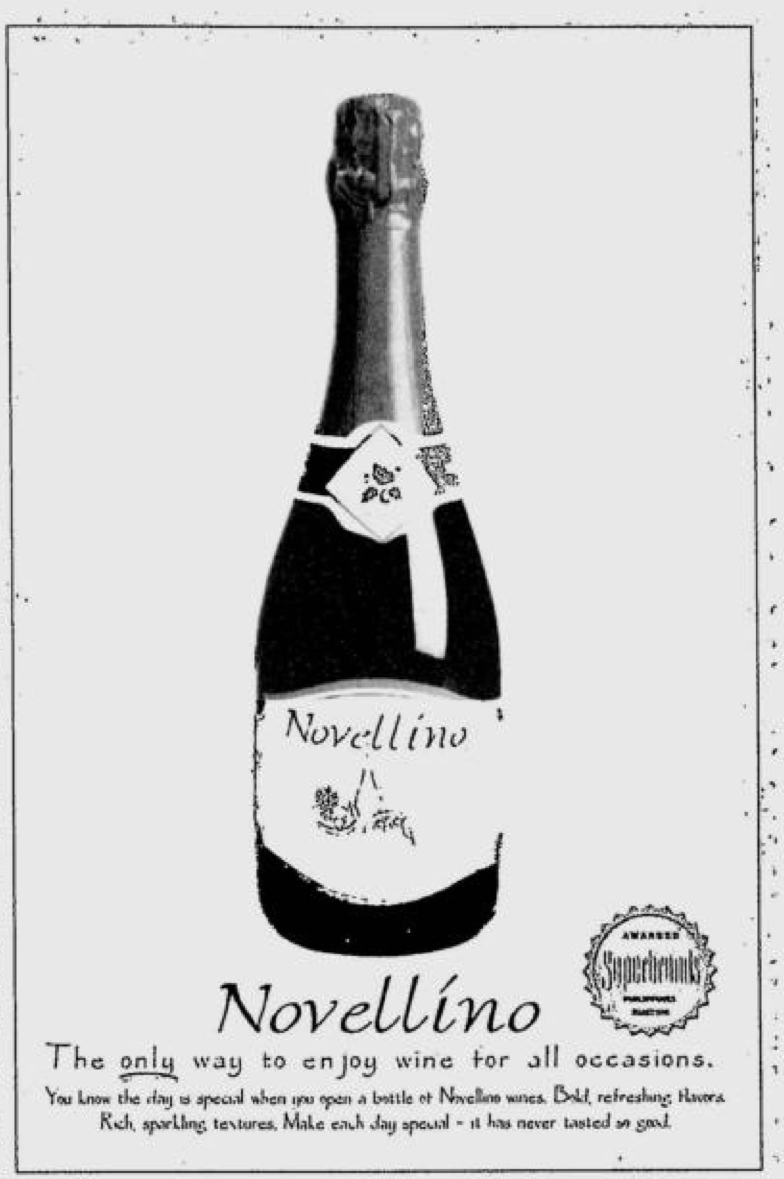
"Oscar has everything to win and nothing to lose," said Mendoza, which he added, makes it easier for the Mexican to face the big-punching southpaw from Gen. Santos.

But unlike the Filipino champ, who continues to spar five days before the fight day, Larios has stopped sparring since arriving here last week.

His daily itinerary includes jogging around the Philsports oval in the early morning and working out at the Red Corner Gym, a good five-minute walk from the Discovery Suites, his sponsor's hotel.

He said the Larios camp, billeted in one of the hotel's superior three-room suites, walks to the Red Corner. But while the rest of the entourage would only take five minutes to reach it, Larios would need 30 minutes because of the crowd.

"This is an unbelievable crowd you have here," said Mendoza. "People would ask for autographs. Policemen. Girls. Some even wished him good luck and a few even goaded him to beat Pacquiao."



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Media get close view of battle

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWRITERS WON'T BE using binoculars watching Manny Pacquiao in action this Sunday after all.

The Filipino ring sensation told mediamen after his workout yesterday that organizers had reconsidered their decision to place the sportswriters covering his fight against Mexican Oscar Larios this Sunday at the upper box section of the Araneta Coliseum.

"Walang problema basta ako ang nag-request (No problem because it's my request)," said Pacquiao at the end of his 1 1/2 hour workout at the Abap gym inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Pacquiao said he had told the organizers to place the press box within spitting distance from the boxing ring.

"I asked them (organizers) 'is this the first time you will organize a boxing event?'" said the champ in Filipino. "This is the first time I heard of reporters covering the fight from afar."

Pacquiao even uttered strong words at those who conceived of the idea. *"Masyado na silang sugapa and suwapang* (They have become so greedy)."

But he later dismissed the whole thing by saying that the organizers have acceded to his request anyway.

The regular working area of the media at ringside during fights was preserved even during the famous world heavyweight championship clash between Americans Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier at the Araneta Coliseum in 1975.

In his light workout yesterday, Pacquiao did the mitts, worked on the speedball, shadow boxed and jumped rope under the watchful eye of trainer Freddie Roach, who later slipped out reportedly for a TV interview.

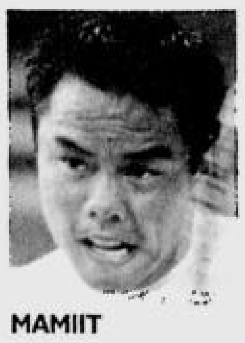
"I wasn't even thinking of him (Larios) anymore. All I'm thinking of is the fight," said Pacquiao while taking off his golden-laced training shoes.

After ditching his soggy socks, he showed feet covered with massive tape that secured tiny foam strips under his toes. The extra protection for his toes is meant to prevent blisters which bothered him when he fought Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez at the MGM Grand two years ago.

Pacquiao said Larios doesn't have to hide while training referring to reports that the Mexican opponent was playing hide and seek with mediamen trying to track him down.

"Inside the ring, he can run but he can't hide," the champ said.

Mamiit gains Wimby men's doubles draw



MAMIIT

CECIL MAMIIT, THE Fil-American who sparked the country's three-gold tennis romp in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, has made it to the men's doubles draw of the Wimbledon tennis championship in England.

Mamiit and American Kevin Kim survived the 16-team qualifying by beating Rik De Voestof South Africa and Australian Davis Cupper Nathan Healy in the first round and the Ratiwana twins from Thailand, the 2005 SEAG men's doubles winner, in the second round.

Facing Mamiit and Kim in the first round of the doubles' main draw are Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina and Luis Homa of Peru.

This year, Mamiit has won three doubles titles in the US $50,000 Challengers.

"We are proud of Cecil who will be playing his first Davis Cup in a few weeks time at the Manila Polo Club for the Philippines,"said Manuel Misa, president of the Philippine Tennis Association.

The Philippines will host the Group 3 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania tie at the MPC indoor courts, July 19-23. Completing the RP team are Eric Taino, Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla with Martin Misa as coach and former Davis Cupper Roland So as non-playing team captain.

The other countries in the tie are Bangladesh, Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

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Unson tops San Diego tilt; De Guzman excels

UNSON

LOCAL JUNGOLFERS CONTINued to gain ground in preparation for the major events in the United States next month as Andie Unson, Miguel Tabuena and Regine de Guzman came through with impressive finishes in various tournaments abroad.

On Monday (Tuesday in Manila), Unson nipped Marissa Borja on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff to capture the girls 11-12 division of the Chris Riley junior golf tournament at the Warner Springs Ranch Resort course in San Diego, California.

Unson and Borja, who finished with similar five-over 77s in regulation play, both parred the first extra hole but Andie won it with a par on the second hole against a double-bogey by Borja.

Tabuena shot even par, 72, but lost by a stroke place to Kevin Carnegie, who shot a 71 in the same division. Miguel, however, beat Garret Cypher, the same American who beat him for the Scott Simpson Junior held at Chula Vista last week. Unson placed third in the same Simpson event.

In the fifth Asean Schools championships at the Selatar Country Club in Singapore, De Guzman placed a strong second behind a Thailander in the girls individual competition and teamed up with Paulina Sotto and Katya dela Cruz for a third place showing in team play.

De Guzman, supported by Titleist, led by four going into the final round but collapsed with an 80 and lost by three to Punpaka of Thailand, who shot 73. Sotto settled for sixth place in the standings.

The boys didn't do well, placing fifth out of six entries with Gabby Villareal emerging as the best individual finisher at No. 21.

Miguel, was three under after the 8th hole, but a bogey on 9th and a double-bogey on the 10th tarnished an otherwise solid effort. He finished the rest of the back nine, even par.

SPORTSWATCH

Fancied bets advance in JVC Open

BROTHERS PETER AND PATRIQUE MAGNAYE CAME AWAY WITH STRAIGHT set victories over their respective rivals to lead the charge of the favorites in the juniors division halfway through the qualifying phase of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at PowerSmash yesterday. The 13-year-old Peter, bidding to annex the 16-under crown after copping the JVC 14-under title last month, thwarted Joed Moris, 21-5, 24-22, to reach the round of 32. Patrique trounced Jake Nazareno, 21-13, 21-9, to lead the the lower draw qualifiers. Paul Vivas, Joseph Babad and Ralph Hidalgo also swept their rivals.

Accel 3-point, free throw tilt July 1

THE PTAA/ACCEL 3-POINT AND FREE THROW SHOOTING WILL BE HELD JULY 1, 1-10 p.m. at the San Andres Gym in Malate, Manila. PTAA president Jose C. Clemente III and sports and fellowship committee chair Clarence Aytona said registration is still open. Five hundred participants will be accommodated on a first-come-first paid basis today. Call 552-0026-28, 0906-472-0370 or 0927-474-5271.

Rapid Open chess team tourney

THE 2006 RAPID OPEN CHESS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP UNWRAPS ON AUG. 5-6 at the Star Mall in Mandaluyong City. A total of P130,000 cash prizes is at stake in the event organized by the Mandaluyong City Chess Association and sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines. The event is supported by Mandaluyong congressman Benhur Abalos, Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifah Al Nehyam and deputy president Casto "Toti" Abundo, NCFP president Cong. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. and secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino. For inquiries, contact Willie Abalos at 0921-6219898 or Jlann Perez at 0915-5198676.

Alora leads MCC early winners

VERTH ALORA STUNNED TOP SEED RAYMUNDO HIPOLITO TO LEAD THE EARly winners of the first 2006 MCC Non-master standard chess Tuesday at the second floor of St. Francis Square behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Also hurdling their first round assignments were Joel Cocjin, Roland-Bag-ao of Phil. Health and lawyer Joselito Oliveros. Entries will be accepted until 5:30 p.m. today. Registration fee is P250. Call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069 or 0916-6608-712.

Ateneo Big Blue Eagle cheer rally

THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL BIG BLUE EAgle Cheer Rally for UAAP Season 69 tomorrow at the Blue Eagle Gym. The event will be highlighted by an exhibition game featuring the current Blue Eagles against the Ateneo Legends at 6 p.m. The event is presented by Lee Pipes, Level-Up, NetGames and Smart in cooperation with Chikka, Extreme Magic Sing, Heaven N'Eggs, Intermatrix and Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs.

Jao guns for second triumph

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOLET JAO GUNS FOR HIS SECOND STRAIGHT WIN IN the second leg of the 2006 Shell Advance-San Mig Coffee Superbikes Series this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Jao drew first blood as he turned back rival Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex and Roderick Chua to prop up his bid for a 10th title in the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association. Also out to stop Jao are Wacky del Rosario, John Diego, Randy Ortiz and Julian Goitia. Contact Nelson Gayola, Rodini Rivera or Sherwin Mojica at 817-2241.

Letran Golf Cup today

THE LETRAN GOLF CUP '06 WILL TEE-OFF AT 3 P.M. TODAY AT CLUB INTRAmuros. HS Batch 1981 organized the event. Interested players may contact Ruth Patawaran at 635-29-82, 631-05-03 or 0918-9124509. The event is being backed mainly by Toyota Balintawak, Globe Telecom, Tagaytay Highlands, U-Freight International, with support coming from Metro Inc., SAS, Pascual Laboratories, Verde Island Resorts, Discovery Suites, Unilever, Sandugo, St. Mary's Publishing, MY and Sons Intercontinental Trading.

Celebrity Golf Invitational June 30

CELEBRITY GOLF INVITATIONAL, A FUNDRAISING PROJECT FOR THE BENEFIT of Movie Workers Welfare Foundation is set tomorrow at Club Intramuros from 8:30 a.m. Celebrities, broadcasters, corporate bigwigs, aficionados, legislators, media and movie stars play golf together for the less privilege workers in the media industry. Boots Anson-Roa and former Sen. Tito Sotto spearhead the event.

Pilar Village rules intervillage

PILAR VILLAGE TOPPLED AYALA ALABANG TO RULE THE NOKIA 1 DIVISION of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament at the south course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club Tuesday. With Jojo Subido and Jon Judan scoring 39 points each, Pilar Village fired a solid 301 aggregate. Edward Tan and Jimmy Uy tossed in 38 points each as Pilar Village wound up with a 36-hole total of 584, including the 283 it pooled at Riviera's Couples course last month. Ayala Alabang closed out with a 293 and 578 for second. Don Enrique Heights and Magallanes finished third and fourth, respectively, and also advanced to the grand finals.

Busy sked at Makati Coliseum

A BEVY OF COCKFIGHTING EVENTS ARE LINED UP AT MAKATI COLISEUM IN the upcoming rainy month of July. Slated on Monday 3 is the Winchester Gold 4-cock derby, with P300,000 at stake for an entry fee of P10,000. Then on July 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 22, the hunt for eye-popping guaranteed prizes resume via the Salpukan Sa Taglugon 5-cock derby. The winners stand to receive P2 million while a brand new Ford Escape will be given to the fastest win champion as bonus, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Call 896-3545 and 895-6475 (Joan or Stephanie).

50 entries in Las Pinas cockfest

THE MANAGEMENT OF LAS PIÑAS COLISEUM, IN COOPERATION WITH HOST Arnel Tenedero, will launch today a special 2-cock derby with more than 50 fights on tap. According to coliseum manager Alex Tobias, participants can field two or three entries since only two gamebirds are needed per entry. Entry fee is P3,300. Meanwhile, the Fastest Win-One Cock Ulutan will resume on July 6 with Dandan and Monching Ignacio of Cavite as hosts. A total guaranteed prize of P200,000 awaits the winners. For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

PCC 5 submission of weights today

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IN CONNECTION with Pasay City Cockpit's Super Bigtime 5-cock derby. Entries will be accommodated from 2 -9 p.m. Call 843-1746, 816-6750 and 843-1890 for details (Goodie or Willie). To be hosted by the father-and-son team of Jet and Joel Fernando, the derby, sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, gets underway tomorrow.

Giants stay in the hunt

Fonacier stars as Bulls claim crucial victory

GAMES TOMORROW *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

By June Navarro

ALASKA'S Willie Miller tries to figure out a way to get past the defense of Purefoods guard Roger Yap.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

THERE WAS NO OTHER concern but to stay alive.

Purefoods kept this short-term goal to heart and lived another day in the semifinals of the PBA Philippine Cup with an 85-74 triumph over Alaska last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

James Yap presided over a third-quarter scoring binge and the Giants, refusing to end a season of high expectations, strengthened their resolve by scuttling the Aces on the other end of the floor.

"It's a big win but we're still down in the series," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, whose Giants moved a game closer to tying the Aces in the best-of-seven series at 2-3.

"We're still alive and it was our battle cry after we lost Game 4. Now, we're looking forward to Game 6," Gregorio added.

But as the cliché goes, some things are easier said than done.

For the Giants to win, they must limit the Aces to no more than 80 points. And doing it twice in a row looked a tall order.

"It will be hard to limit them (Aces) to 80 points back-to-back," said Gregorio. "We may have the best plan in the world but we have to execute it."

That's exactly what happened when the Giants pulled away in the pivotal fourth by forcing the Aces to throw bricks and commit turnovers for almost five minutes.

After Reynel Hugnatan muscled his way to the basket in a mismatch against James Yap, 66-71, the Aces suffered a long scoring drought while the Giants clustered seven straight points through Jun Limpot as the Alaska defense focused on James Yap.

"They just can't double off James (Yap) every time. Somebody will be free and could take those shots," said Gregorio.

Yap scored seven of his 20 points in third, Limpot had 13 while Richard Yee added 11 for the Giants, who registered their 30th win of the season.

In the second game, Larry Fonacier scored a personal conference-high 24 points to lead Red Bull to a 107-101 victory. The Bulls will take a 3-2 series lead into tomorrow's Game 6.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 85—Yap J. 20, Limpot 13, Yee 11, Evangelista 9, Raymundo 8, Yap R. 8, Castillo 8, Pingris 6, Simon 2.

ALASKA 74—Belasco 19, Thoss 12, Cortez 12, Dela Cruz 8, Miller 7, Cariaso 6, Hugnatan 5, Ferriols 5, Wilson 0, Laure 0.

Quarters: 19-23, 38-38, 67-58, 85-74

Adamson SSC bets clash for final slot

FILIPINO ACE CHERry Rose Macatangay and Thai import Jaroensri Bualee face each other in a duel of power hitters as Adamson and San Sebastian dispute the second championship slot in the Shakey's V-League at 2 p.m. today at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Although the Lady Falcons are up in their head-to-head duel, 2-1, the Recoletos-based spikers are raring to square it off and arrange a showdown with defending champion De La Salle for the crown.

"It's going to be one exciting game and we hope to come out the winner," said Adamson coach Dulce Pante, whose charges finished second behind De La Salle (12-3) with a 10-5 record.

Game 1 of the finals will be played on Saturday with the individual awards to be handed out before Game 2 on Sunday. Both coaches agreed defense would decide the outcome of the contest although observers note it would depend on who between Macatangay and Bualee would dominate up front.

Ex-PBA lawyer says Eala erred

THERE WAS NO WALKOUT SO THE decision to slap Red Bull with a hefty fine of P400,000 after its match with San Miguel Beer last Sunday was a big blunder.

Former PBA legal counsel Butch Cleofe said Commissioner Noli Eala erred in his decision to heavily fine the Red Bull management in connection with its coach's order to send his players briefly to the locker room during Game 4 of the Gran Matador Brandy Philippine Cup semifinals.

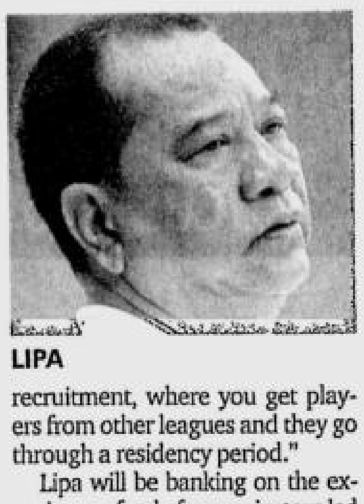
"*Mali ang desisyon* (The decision was wrong). There was no walkout because the team (Red Bull) came back in time to finish the match. And since it was the coach (Yeng Guiao) who made the order, management should not have been fined," said Cleofe, who served under Commissioners Rudy Salud, Rey Marquez, Jun Bernardino and, for a time, Eala.

Cleofe, who helped draft the rules pertaining to walkouts shortly after Añejo Rum, then representing the La Tondeña franchise, did it in 1990 and drew a P550,000 fine for it, said the rules were made in such a way that the team which refuses to play may re-think its option.

"The team is given enough time to cool off. Maybe around 10 minutes to enable management to talk to the coach, who initiates the move to stop his boys from playing. Since the Red Bull-SMB game resumed before the scorer declared a forfeiture, a basketball penalty was enough," explained Cleofe.

Lipa returns as Maroons aim to end title drought

By Jasmine W. Payo


LIPA

AFTER A 20-YEAR TITLE drought, the University of the Philippines brought back the coach that delivered its only UAAP basketball crown.

So naturally, the expectations are high for veteran coach Joe Lipa, who steered a star-studded cast bannered by Benjie Paras and Ronnie Magsanoc in the Maroons' 1986 title run.

Lipa, last year's league commissioner, quickly put all high hopes in perspective.

"The collegiate league now is very different," Lipa said. "Recruitment is a big factor in winning games. You now have intra-league recruitment, where you get players from other leagues and they go through a residency period."

Lipa will be banking on the experience of only four mainstays led by point guard Marvin Cruz and forward Nestor David. He will be fielding a roster laden with rookies, who are mostly off high school.

"I think we have to go to the tournament as a team," said Lipa, who replaced coach Lito Vergara. "We know we're not the best talented team. But we're jelling as a team."

Cruz averaged a team-best 12.6 points and three assists, while David normed 11.6 markers and 8.6 rebounds in the Maroons' fifth place finish at 6-8 last season.

The Maroons, though, acquired a strong set of rookies including Woody Co, Migs de Asis and Martin Reyes.

Among last year's high school sensations, the 6-foot-3 Co shot a single-game record of 53 points for Xavier in the Tiong Lian basketball league.

De Asis and Reyes also played key roles in powering De La Salle Zobel to its first championship in the 2005 UAAP junior basketball tournament.

"We have to play as a team to accomplish what we need to do," noted Lipa. "We're still working on not letting our opponents get second-chance points."

Despite admitting that the Maroons have a relatively small lineup, Lipa is no stranger to forming a competitive team. The previously struggling Ateneo Eagles also benefited from Lipa's rebuilding program when he took over as head coach from 1999 to 2001.

Alcano, Lining enter IPT Tour shootout

RONATO ALCANO SWEPT THE qualifying round, while Antonio Lining topped the loser's bracket to join 10 other Filipinos in the grand finals of the International Pool Tour 8-Ball shoot-out last Monday at the Lou Butera's Pool Sharks in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Seeded players Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Jose "Amang" Parica and Marlon Manalo were guaranteed of playing in the IPT finals. Also securing early finals slots were Alex Pagulayan, Dennis Orcollo, Warren Kiamco, Rodolfo Luat, Gandy Valle and Santos Sambajon.

Alcano capped his winning run by edging American Mark Trainer, 10-7, to grab the first ticket.

The 2002 AZ Billiards Rookie of the Year earlier defeated Rose Brill, 10-1; recent Asian 9-Ball Tour winner Ramil Gallego, 10-8; US-based Filipino Danny Petraulba, 10-8; and Vietnamese ace Thanh Hao, 10-7.

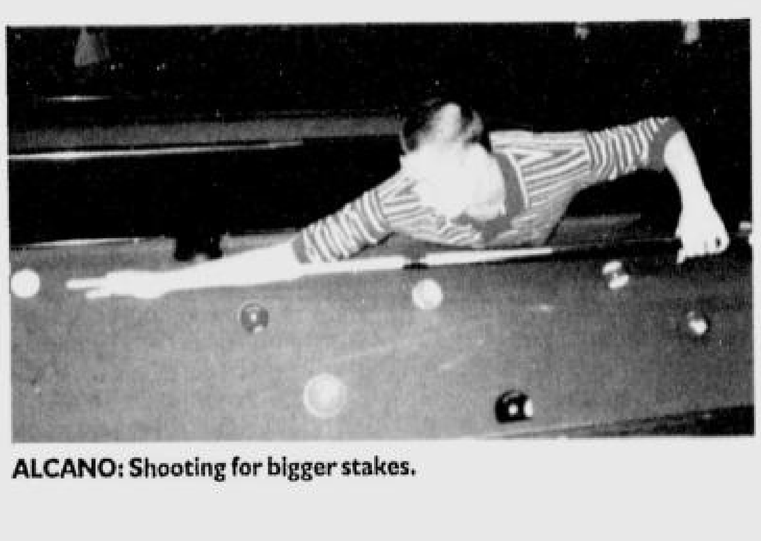
"It's an honor for me to make it to the grand finale of the IPT," said Alcano, who's playing under the stable of businessman Perry Mariano.

It was Alcano's second try to qualify in the IPT finals after dropping out in the qualifying tournament in Shanghai, China.

Lining, the Oriental Mindoro veteran, crushed Trainer, 10-5, in the do-or-die tiff for the last finals seat.

The final round, dubbed as the 2006 North American 8-Ball Championship, is slated on July 23-30 at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A total prize of $2 million is at stake. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*


ALCANO: Shooting for bigger stakes.

Dolphins nip Lions; Stags bounce back

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY finally showed its worth, posting a 70-66 come-from-behind victory over San Beda last night in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	1	0
Perpetual	1	0
San Beda	1	1
SSC	1	1
Mapua	1	1
PCU	1	1
St. Benilde	0	1
Jose Rizal	0	1

Gabby Espinas capped a 9-2 blast that finally tied the game at 57-all midway in the fourth quarter and then joined hands with Beau Belga and Jason Castro in repulsing the Lions down the stretch.

It was the first win in two games for PCU which trailed at 35-45 late in the third period while former coach Junel Baculi watched from the sidelines.

"At last the boys showed up ready to win. They also showed their character," said PCU interim coach Joel Dualan as he noted the big comeback of the Dolphins in the last quarter.

Earlier, San Sebastian College-Recoletos also redeemed itself from an opening-day loss by downing Mapua, 76-68.

Jim Viray unloaded 24 points on top of 10 rebounds, two steals and one assist as the Stags bounced back from their 73-67 loss to Perpetual in the inaugurals last week.

"It was a good feeling getting my first win as San Sebastian head coach," said Stags' mentor Raymond Valenzona who took over the reins from his father Turo.

The Red Lions fell to 1-1 like the Cardinals, who pulled off a 47-42 win over the Dolphins last Saturday.

San Beda scored only three points in the final three minutes and 11 overall in the last quarter while PCU unloaded 22 in the payoff period.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

SSC-R 76—Viray 24, Ballesteros 13, Vicente 11, Lindaya 9, Delgado 4, Bulawan 4, Aquino 4, Juan 3, Sagad 2, de Leon 2, Raymundo 0, Najorda 0.

MAPUA 68—Tiongco 14, del Rosario 10, Co 8, Gonzales 7, Sumalinog 6, Pascual N. 6, Mazo 6, Guillermo 6, dela Pena 5, Pascual J. 0.

Quarters: 14-22; 38-43; 56-53; 76-68.

Second Game (Srs)

PCU 70—David 15, Belga 14, Castro 14, Amparado 8, Espinas 8, Salem 5, Santos 2, Navarro 2, McCoy 2, Graham 0, Javelona 0, Chien 0.

SAN BEDA 66—Escobal 11, Ekwe 10, Aljamal 8, Tecson 7, Menor 7, Hermida 7, Maggay 6, Gamalinda 5, Angeles 5, Taupa 0, Evangelista 0, Taganas 0.

Quarters: 13-19, 33-38, 48-55, 70-66.

Enduro SML U tour slated

THE ENDURO SAN MIG LIGHT 2006 OPENS its doors to adventure racing enthusiasts when it holds its university tour in Metro Manila as preparation for its third and final leg.

Dubbed as Enduro 101/Samahang Enduro, the event aims to encourage students into adventure racing as a vehicle to promote outdoor sports in the country.

Interested students will be given a chance to participate in the final leg slated on July 7 for the Novice category and July 8 for the Elite division.

Some 200 racers are expected to take part in this annual adventure race that promises to get bigger and better in its third year.

A bar tour featuring celebrities and media personalities will also be held in the Manila leg. Call the Enduro hotline at (632) 414-1489 or log on towww.sanmiglight.com.ph

Milo Marathon goes to GenSan

BEFORE BOXING FANS GET GLUED TO the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios fight, around 7,000 participants are expected to compete in the eighth leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon at the Freedom Park in General Santos City on Sunday .

Vice Mayor Florentina Congson will fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. in the event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, the Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

Also invited to the rites are PSC Commissioner Leon Montemayor, City Councilor Sherlyn Banas Nograles, SK Chair and City Councilor Brian Estrella, City Sports Development Board vice chair Clemen Asencio, acting officer Maureen Rodriguez, city administrator Rodrigo Salansan and city sports coordinator Ernest Nanali.

Rey Mondenedo, last year's runner-up, is favored to top the 21K qualifying run against a crack field that includes last year's third placer Placido Diaz, Mario Dabon, and Francisco Veroy. Monaliza Ambasa of South Cotabato is expected to defend her crown against Vivian Villagonzalo, Genalyn Canete and Raquel Velasco.

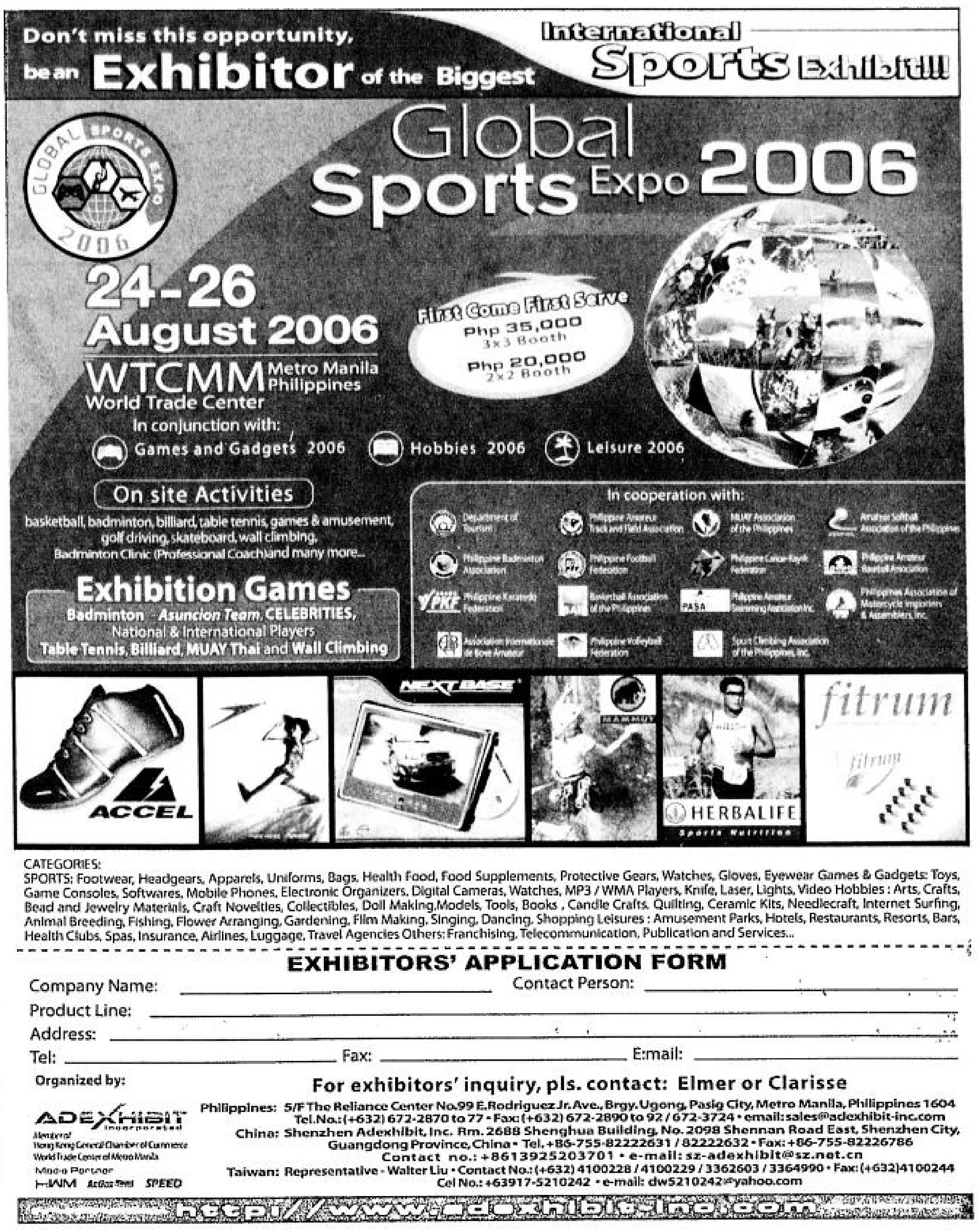
Yeo 21st SBP opening guest

RISING STAR JOSEPH YEO OF HARBOUR Centre has been invited to grace the 7:30 a.m. opening of the 21st season of Milo BEST Center's SBP/Passerelle tournament on July 9 at the Xavier School gym.

Yeo, a former Xavier and De La Salle University star, led the Portmasters to the PBL Unity Cup title recently by scoring 28 points in the final match against Toyota Otis-Letran.

Xavier has always been a strong contender in the youth cagefest, which has lured 36 teams this year.

Defending champions Ateneo (SBP) and La Salle Greenhills (Passerelle) head the field in the NCR tourney.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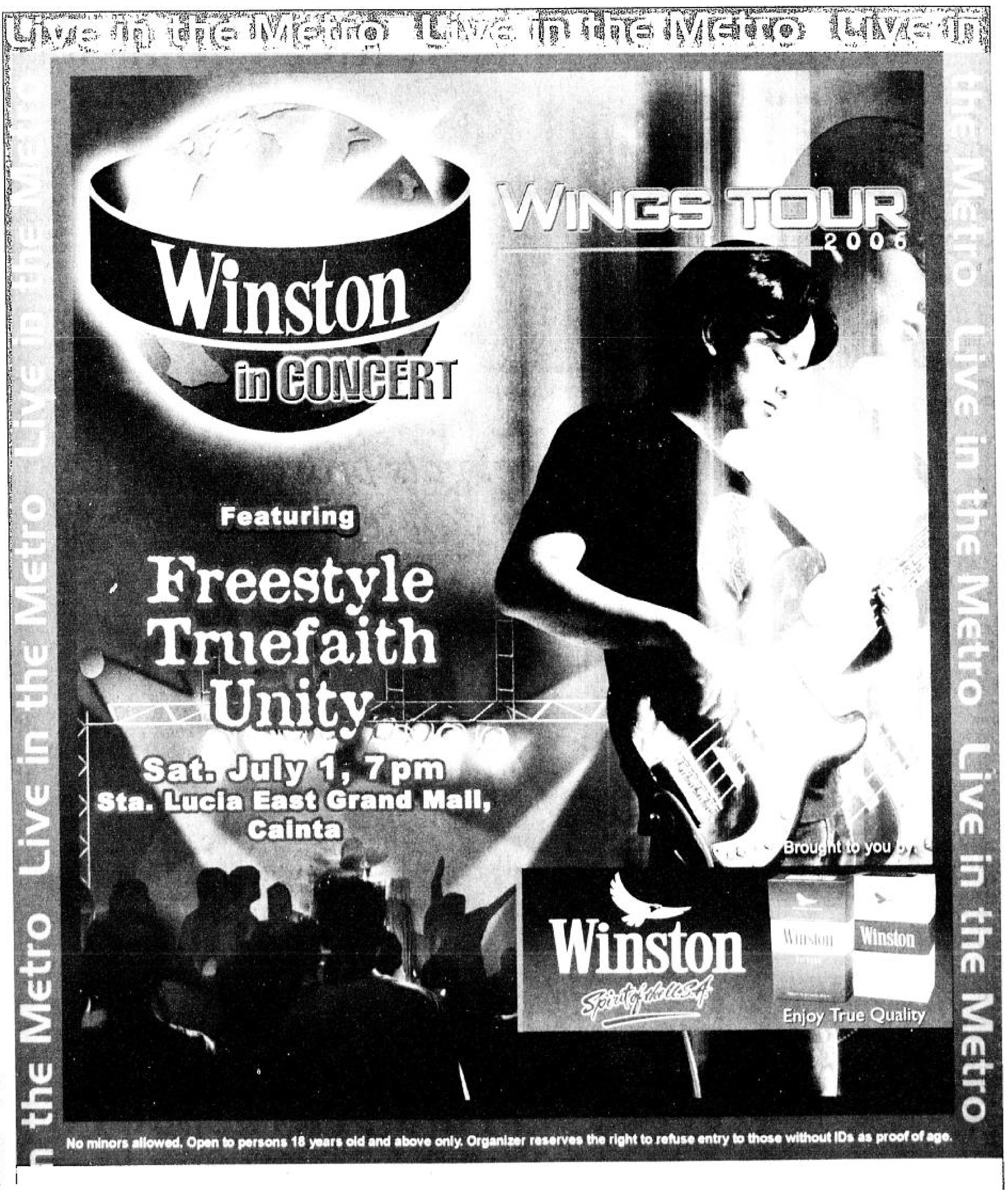

No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTSPLUS
7 a.m. —Brazil vs. Ghana (replay @ 11 p.m.)
4 p.m.—Spain vs. France (replay tomorrow @ 2 a.m.)

Merci, monsieur Zidane

French ride skipper to World Cup q'finals

FRANCE'S Zinedine Zidane (bottom) celebrates with teammate Franck Ribery after carrying France past Spain. REUTERS

HANOVER, GERMANY—ZINEDINE ZIDANE'S FAREWELL TOUR with France keeps on rolling. Spain's World Cup agony never ends.

Zidane sent in a late free kick that Patrick Vieira headed off a defender and into the net to break a 1-1 deadlock Tuesday. The retiring France captain then finished off a brilliant night with a goal of his own to cement his team's place in the quarterfinals with a 3-1 victory.

France moves on to face Brazil on Saturday, a rematch of the World Cup final in 1998, when the French won, 3-0, with Zidane scoring two goals.

Spain, meanwhile, is still looking to end 76 years of World Cup futility.

With the score even in the 83rd minute, Zidane's free kick curled into the goal mouth and found an onrushing Vieira, who headed it off the body of Spain's Sergio Ramos and into the net.

Minutes later, Zidane finished off the night with a solo run into the penalty area, his shoes flashing as he cut inside one defender before wrong-footing goalkeeper Iker Casillas for the score.

France's recovery from a listless World Cup start seemed impossible as little as a week ago, when Zidane was serving a suspension for too many yellow cards and the French struggled to score.

Zidane said France "really wanted to show that while the first round wasn't easy, we were capable of a few things. And this evening we have demonstrated that we have a good group that wants to go further."

Spain first got its hopes up in the 28th minute, when Lilian Thuram stepped on the foot of Pablo Ibanez inside the box, prompting referee Christiano Copelli to award a penalty kick. David Villa slotted it perfectly, low in the left corner and just out of the reach of Fabien Barthez.

France answered in the 41st minute. Vieira sent Frank Ribery into open space with a pass, and the Marseille winger swept the ball past goalkeeper Iker Casillas with his right foot and sent it home with his left, just ahead of two onrushing defenders.

Spain became a World Cup favorite after another brilliant opening round, but fell flat within the last 10 minutes of Tuesday's game. Compared to Zidane's sparkling play, Spain veteran Raul Gonzalez was ineffective and was substituted early.

Zidane, who is retiring after this World Cup, made the difference in midfield with several slick moves. The former Real Madrid midfielder still wove some old magic, with his unique mix of apparent nonchalance and lethal passing.

France coach Raymond Domenech said he had been surprised at suggestions that Vieira and Zidane should have been left off of the team.

"For me, it was dramatic that this question was even being asked, but that's the way it is, and now we are moving ahead with our little team of old men," Domenech said.

In the final minute, Zidane, who turned 34 on Friday, came back to head out crosses and rushed back with the abandon of a teenager to stop a Spanish rush. At the end of the game, the "old men"—Zidane, Vieira and Barthez—were all embracing and saluting the ecstatic, tricolor fans among the sellout crowd of 43,000.

"We are still far from winning the cup but that's our target," Vieira said. "We know that we can achieve a lot and we'll keep working hard. Many people didn't expect us to win today but we proved them wrong."

Domenech said the team was already looking forward to Brazil.

"We have an exceptional game ahead of us," Domenech said. *AP*

Brazil rips Ghana as Ronaldo shatters goal-scoring record

WITH the same flair that made him a feared striker before, Brazil's Ronaldo (right) beats Ghana defender John Pantsil for his World Cup record 15th goal. AP

DORTMUND, GERMANY—BRAZIL ended Ghana's scrappy World Cup debut Tuesday with three streaking goals, the first an early flash by Ronaldo that made him the most prolific scorer in tournament history.

Ronaldo scored his 15th World Cup goal in the fifth minute—breaking Gerd Mueller's all-time tournament scoring record—and hopes his mark goes beyond Brazil's 3-0 win over Ghana.

"I want to continue to increase the record," Ronaldo said, "but without forgetting that the main goal in the World Cup is winning the title."

Ghana made Brazil work for its 11th straight World Cup win, challenging the five-time champions and outplaying them at times, but the Black Stars' shots were either off the mark or well within reach of goalkeeper Dida.

"We won the game, but the result doesn't show it was not an easy game at all," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said. "The first half they did well, they should have scored. They had chances."

Brazil took another step toward its fourth straight World Cup finals. It plays France in the quarterfinals.

"The big guys are coming to the quarterfinals," Parreira said.

Each of Brazil's goals was built upon long, penetrating passes, including Ronaldo's early score to break Mueller's record.

On the counterattack, Kaka sent a second long pass up the heart of the field to an unmarked Ronaldo, who touched the ball once toward Richard Kingson, then sent the goalkeeper flailing with a step-over. Ronaldo cut left, and with a defender closing, poked the ball into the net.

Ronaldo said he never intended to break the World Cup scoring record.

"It was never my goal, it just happened match after match," he said. "This is the result of lots of work, lots of sacrifice."

Mueller scored his 14 goals over 13 games in the 1970 and 1974 World Cups; Ronaldo has played 18 games in the past three tournaments.

Ronaldo performed poorly in Brazil's first two matches against Croatia and Australia, when the Real Madrid striker was held scoreless and substituted for twice. He was also bothered by a weight controversy and a string of minor health problems. *AP*

WIMBLEDON

Federer express chugs on

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—ROGER FEDERER won his record 42nd straight grass-court match Tuesday, beating Richard Gasquet, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, to open his bid for a fourth consecutive Wimbledon championship.

The top-ranked Federer broke the record he shared with Bjorn Borg, the five-time Wimbledon champion who won 41 straight matches on grass from 1976-1981.

"It's nice to get any streak," Federer said. "I'm still going, so even better if I can maybe postpone it and make it even last longer. I'm surprised myself I've kept it that long. To come through today was my only wish, not to break the streak, but to have it come together is nice."

Federer led Gasquet, 6-3, 1-2, on Monday when the match was suspended by rain. The pair returned to Centre Court under cloudy skies, and Federer needed only 37 minutes to finish off the 20-year-old Frenchman, setting up an intriguing second-round encounter against Britain's Tim Henman.

Also winning on Centre Court was Andre Agassi, the 1992 champion playing in his last Wimbledon. The 36-year-old American, the oldest player in the men's draw, got off to a slow start before beating 71st-ranked Boris Pashanski of Serbia, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Agassi, who announced last weekend that the US Open in September will be his final tournament, had 17 aces and capitalized on 11 double faults by Pashanski—two coming on the last two points of the match.

"I was a bit lost out there in the first set, a bit too nervous," Agassi said.

In his customary fashion, Agassi bowed and blew kisses to all corners of the court as the fans gave him a rousing ovation. Among those in the crowd was his wife, former seven-time Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf. Agassi wore a necklace with letters spelling out "Daddy Rocks," which he said was made by the couple's 4-year-old son, Jaden Gil. *AP*

Old school gals prove finesse can win

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—EVEN by the standards of tradition-rich Wimbledon, Martina Hingis' approach is old-fashioned.

For starters, she somehow strikes the ball without a grunt. Rather than swing from the heels, she creates improbable angles to loop, bunt and slice shots which wind up being fielded on several hops by a ball kid.

Finesse can still win, as Hingis showed on Tuesday. Completing her first match at Wimbledon in five years following a long injury layoff and an overnight rain delay, she beat the bigger, stronger but less experienced Olga Savchuk of Ukraine, 6-2, 6-2.

Hingis hit drop shots, deft lobs and tricky groundstrokes that rarely took a true bounce, negating Savchuk's power game.

"I had to do something, especially on grass," Hingis said. "You have to try to have a lot of variety in your shots. If you don't give the opponent the same shot twice, it definitely helps because the bounces are already so hard to get ready for."

Justine Henin-Hardenne won much the same way, beating Yuan Meng of China, 6-0, 6-1. In this era of big hitters, the slender French Open champion is proud to be a stylistic throwback.

"It's good to have different kinds of games," Henin-Hardenne said. "I think people would love to see more of these kind of players on the tour, but women's tennis is getting very powerful in the last few years."

There's plenty of competition this year, including 2005 US Open champion Kim Clijsters and 2004 US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, who won on Tuesday. Clijsters beat Vera Zvonareva, 7-5, 6-3, and Kuznetsova defeated Italy's Romina Oprandi, 6-3, 6-2.

Other contenders include top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo, 2005 champion Venus Williams and 2004 champion Maria Sharapova, scheduled to play their first-round matches on Wednesday. All hit the ball hard.

"It's wide open," Henin-Hardenne said. "That's very exciting on the tour. It's very hard to say, 'This player is dominating the tour, and she is really the favorite for this tournament.'" *AP*

NICOLE Vaidisova, who was playing Klara Koukalova at presstime, is among the new wave of young power hitters. REUTERS

Wie insists on reading own putts

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND—JULI INKSTER took only 105 putts when she won the US Women's Open four years ago at Prairie Dunes, and caddie Greg Johnston played a big role in helping Inkster read some of the subtle breaks in the greens.

Now that he's on the bag with Michelle Wie, however, Johnston has gone mute.

That's by design.

Wie is trying to develop independence as a golfer by reading greens by herself, and some believe it has cost the 16-year-old from Hawaii in her last few tournaments. She missed six birdie putts inside 12 feet in her morning round of US Open qualifying, and she took 12 more putts than US LPGA Championship winner Se Ri Pak at Bulle Rock.

"The old saying is you learn from your mistakes," said BJ Wie, her father. "On the LPGA Tour, I think some players are overly dependent on their caddies."

Is it hurting Wie to not take any advice from her caddie, especially one of Johnston's caliber?

Probably.

But the teenager isn't about to change now. She feels she will be a better putter in the long run if she learns to read greens by herself. *AP*

BARGNANI REUTERS

NBA draft has depth, no impact player

NEW YORK—THE TORONTO RAPTORS have the first pick in a National Basketball Association draft that is considered deep but may be devoid of a Yao Ming, Dwyane Wade or LeBron James impact player.

It is even possible new Raptor president Bryan Colangelo will be looking to make a deal before Wednesday's entry draft.

Some NBA scouts are calling this a six-player draft, with Italian forward Andrea Bargnani and collegians LaMarcus Aldridge of Texas, Adam Morrison of Gonzaga, Tyrus Thomas of LSU, Brandon Roy of Washington and Rudy Gay of Connecticut the hailed half-dozen.

"The talent is more equally divided in this draft than in 2005," said Charlotte Bobcats coach Bernie Bickerstaff, whose team has the third pick. "I don't think there's a clear-cut No. 1. It's about what your needs are, and who you fall in love with."

Colangelo is believed to like Bargnani, a 6-foot-10 forward whose upside has been likened to Dirk Nowitzki.

Last week, he appointed as vice president and assistant general manager Maurizio Gherardini, who had been with Benetton Treviso of the Italian League, Bargnani's team.

Bargnani is the only non-collegian expected to be taken among the top 10 picks. There is not a very strong class of international players this year, the first in which high school players are ineligible.

"It will be a good draft, with experienced kids who at least got some time [in college]," Bickerstaff said.

The Chicago Bulls have the second pick as the result of the Eddy Curry trade with the New York Knicks and appear to be targeting Aldridge, a 6-10 forward from Texas. The Bulls also pick 16th and are one of six teams with a pair of first-round picks. *AFP*

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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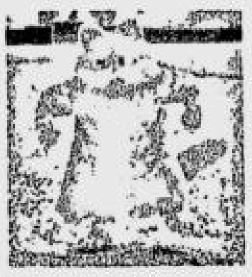


INSIDE

■ **Test**
test /A10

No 'Idols' here

Slim pickings in Davao; all the good ones are in Cebu, says Pilita

By Marinel R. Cruz

DAVAO CITY—"DAVAO IS not the place to look for an 'Idol.' All the good ones are in Cebu," declared Pilita Corrales, a Cebuana and one of the three judges of the reality talent search "Philippine Idol" on ABC 5.

Corrales shares the task with master composer Ryan Cayabyab and rapper-TV host Francis Magalona.

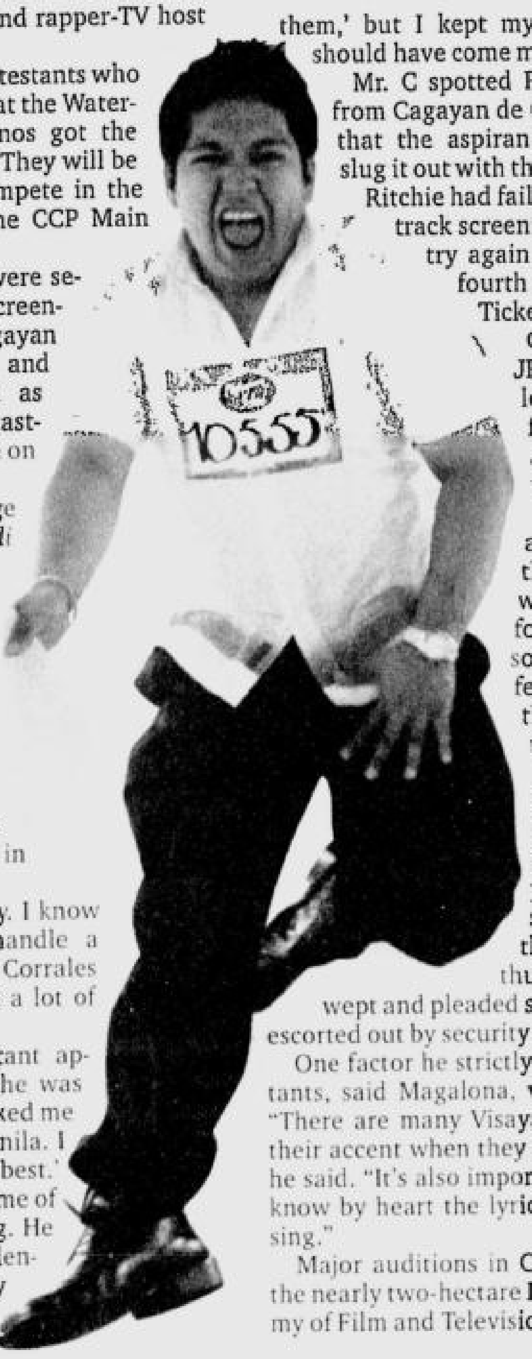
Only 17 out of 75 contestants who auditioned on Monday at the Waterfront Hotels and Casinos got the coveted Golden Ticket. They will be flown to Manila to compete in the theater auditions at the CCP Main Theater in August.

The 75 contenders were selected from fast-track screenings conducted in Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and Davao cities, as well as from pre-casting and casting auditions held here on June 23.

"It's easier to judge now. *Maraming hindi magaling dito*," said Cayabyab, Mr. C to industry colleagues. "I really did not expect much from Davao. We suppose we will have a more difficult time in Cebu."

"People here are shy. I know because I used to handle a singing contest here," Corrales added. "But there are a lot of interesting people."

She said a contestant approached her while she was taking a break. "He asked me to help him get to Manila. I said, 'Just do your best.' Then I noticed that some of his teeth were missing. He said he had left his dentures at home. I really wanted to say, 'Go back and get them,' but I kept my mouth shut. He should have come more prepared."



Mr. C spotted Ritchie Asibal, 28, from Cagayan de Oro's, and decided that the aspirant could very well slug it out with the others in Manila. Ritchie had failed in the CDO fast-track screening and decided to try again here. He was the fourth to get a Golden Ticket.

Corrales advised JR Oclarit, 19, to lose weight before flying to Manila. JR, the sixth pick, weighs 160 lbs.

"I've learned to accept the fact that there are people who join the search for monetary reasons," said Mr. C. "I felt bad saying no to them at first. I'm used to it now."

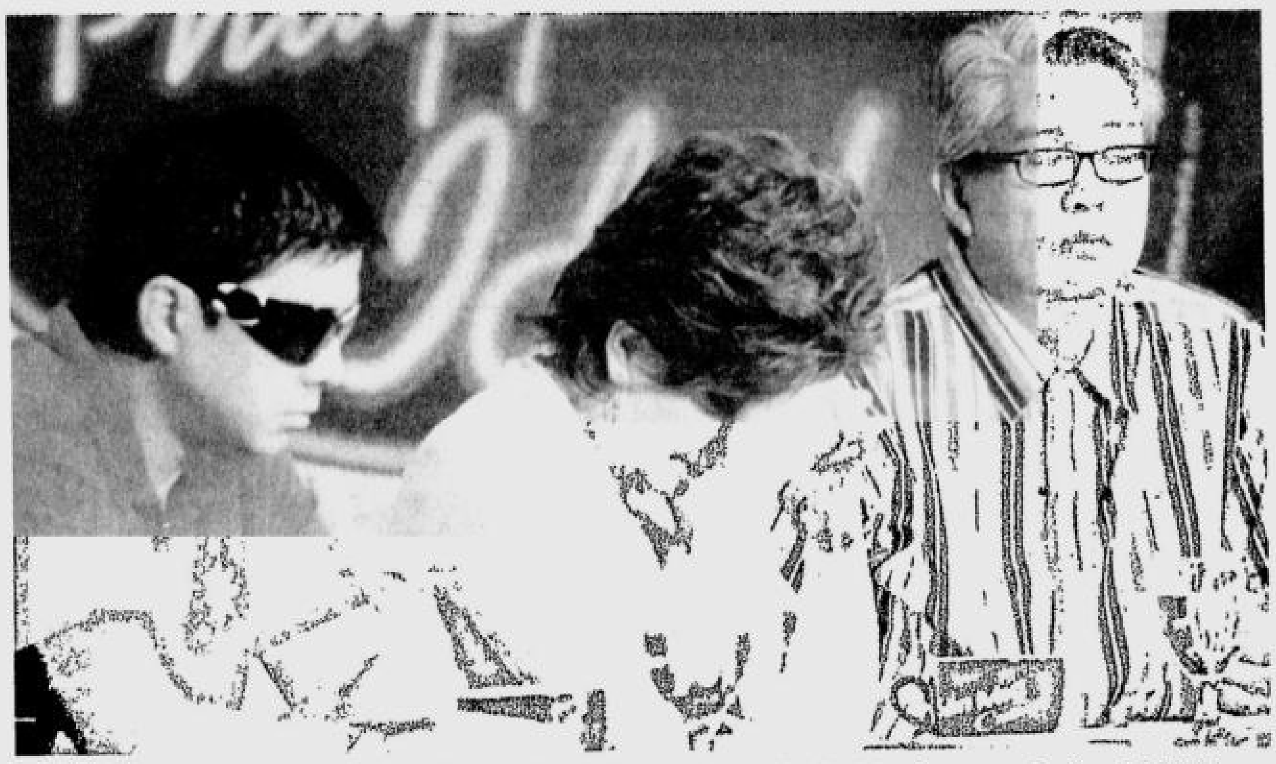
Julieto Alquizar, 19, who said he wanted to make it so he could send young siblings to school, was one of those who got the thumbs-down. He wept and pleaded so hard, he had to be escorted out by security personnel.

One factor he strictly required of contestants, said Magalona, was proper diction. "There are many Visayan Pinoys who lose their accent when they sing. That's a plus," he said. "It's also important for contestants know by heart the lyrics of the songs they sing."

Major auditions in Cebu will be held at the nearly two-hectare International Academy of Film and Television in Lapu-Lapu City on July 24. A total of 25 contestants will be picked from the Visayan region.

"They might cancel each other out when all the contestants get to Manila," said Magalona.

"Yes," Cayabyab agreed, "especially when they stand side by side with their competitors and get to compare notes."



"PHILIPPINE IDOL" judges FrancisM, Pilita and Mr. C: Today's not the day. But it's a happy one for hopefuls Richie Asibal, Ann Quitoriano and Amor Bacharpa, below from top, and J.R. Oclarit, far left. RYAN LIM

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'I still miss Kris but ...'

Actor-politician Mark Lapid says he's no longer comfortable with ex-girlfriend

By Nini Valera

PAMPANGA GOVERNOR AND ACTOR Mark Lapid said he is no longer comfortable in the company of ex-girlfriend Kris Aquino, even if only as a guest on the show biz talk show "The Buzz" to promote his movie, "Batas Militar."

"I went on the show earlier for another movie," Mark, 27, told INQUIRER Entertainment Monday night in a one-on-one interview. "We [Kris and I] said hi, but it was Tito Boy Abunda who interviewed me."

Since his breakup with Kris, Mark said, he had not taken up with another girl, despite tabloid stories linking him to former leading lady Kristine Reyes. His latest screen partner is Tanya Garcia.

But Mark admitted that he still missed Kris.

"I [still] treasure our times together. I am happy that she has found someone to love her," he said, referring to Kris' husband, cager-model James Yap. "She deserves to be happy. She's a remarkable girl."

Mark said he and Kris were together for about three months in 2004. Contrary to rumors, he insisted, they had parted ways without bitterness. He denied that Kris had ended their relationship because she had caught him with another woman.

"There was no third party," Mark said. He did not elaborate. "She was the one who ended it. It's said that we are no longer together, but it's enough that I had known her."

He described Kris as a good-hearted person who worked hard for the future of her son Joshua, by former partner Philip Salvador.

Mark said he currently had his hands full as Pampanga governor, and so he didn't have time for a serious relationship.

"I make movies only if the producer agrees to shoot most of it in Pampanga, so I wouldn't have to go far on location," he explained. "My job as a public servant is the most important thing for me."

Mark said he had started in politics at 17, as chair of the Sanggunian Kabataan. He liked being in public service, he said, but he also wants a foot in show biz.

"We were raised in a show biz atmosphere," he said. "My father (Sen. Lito Lapid) was an action star, and he raised us on his movie earnings. So it was natural for me to want to be part of that world."

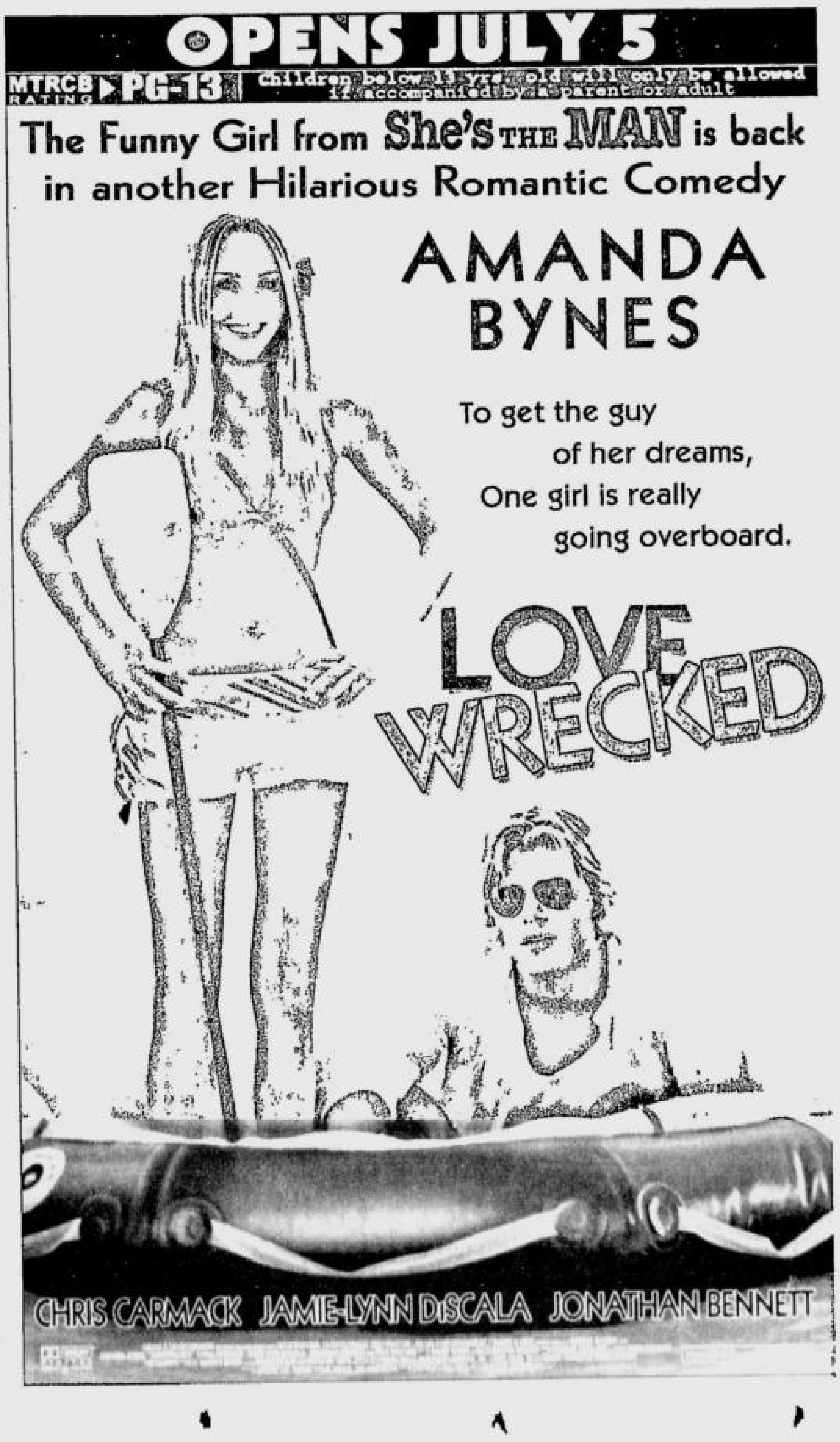
He said he also felt that he owed the movie industry some form of payback for his father's success.

"That's why we produced this movie—to help keep the movie industry alive," he said of "Batas Militar," which the Lapids produced for P8 million. "In our small way, my family wants to help movie workers, like the stunt men from whose ranks my father had come."

If he didn't succeed as an actor, Mark said, he would concentrate on politics. The youngest official to become governor of his province, he has his eyes set on a second term.

"Show biz is a dream," he said. "My job as governor is reality."

MARK Lapid with new leading lady Tanya Garcia



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DID YOU KNOW...

J.K. Rowling AP

Rowling: 2 will die

LONDON—AUTHOR J.K. Rowling said two characters will die in the last installment of her boy wizard series, and she hinted Harry Potter might not survive, either.

"I have never been tempted to kill him off before the final because I want to finish seven books," Rowling said Monday on TV here.

"I can completely understand, however, the mentality of an author who thinks, 'Well, I'm gonna kill them off because that means there can be no non-author-written sequels ... and after I'm dead and gone they won't be able to bring back the character'."

Not finished

Rowling declined to commit herself about Harry, saying she doesn't want to receive hate mail.

"The last book is not finished. But I'm well into it now. I wrote the final chapter in ... 1990, so I've known exactly how the series is going to end," she said.

Some characters might die, but the blockbuster movie franchise lives on. Warner Bros. Pictures has announced that the fifth installment will be released in cinemas in July 2007.

In "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," directed by David Yates, the teenage Harry continues to battle the evil Lord Voldemort (again played by Ralph Fiennes) and his followers. Daniel Radcliffe is returning as the title character, and Emma Watson and Rupert Grint reprise their roles as Hermione and Ron.

Shocked

In her Monday interview on the "Richard and Judy" show, Rowling said people are sometimes shocked to hear that she wrote the end of book seven before she had a publisher for the first book in the series.

"The final chapter is hidden away, although it's now changed very slightly. One character got a reprieve. But I have to say two die that I didn't intend to die," she said. "A price has to be paid. We are dealing with pure evil here. They don't target extras do they? They go for the main characters. Well, I do."

Rowling is the richest woman in Britain—wealthier than even the queen—with a fortune estimated by Forbes magazine last year at more than $1 billion.

AP

Bimbo Cerrudo's concerts for a cause run in July

BIMBO Cerrudo

CERRUDO: CLASSICO…CLASSICko," a concert series for a cause featuring theater actor, concert performer and recording artist Bimbo Cerrudo, goes onstage all Wednesdays of July at the Teatrino in Greenhills.

Each evening will have a special beneficiary: July 5, the Cartwheel Foundation; July 12, the Foundation for Children's Educational Integration; July 19, Beta Epsilon Fraternity projects; July 26, the Parañaque Community Hospital.

Accompanied by a 14-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Rodel Colmenar, Bimbo will perform well-loved standards, songs from the cinema, light opera, and classical-pop crossover tunes.

Call 689-1003 (Sherlo Reyes, for July 5), 928-4689 (Mara or Janet, July 12), 928-3257 (Alex Reyes, July 19).

All systems go

Retro music fans are in for a big treat on July 1 when the Village People and Sister Sledge rock the Araneta Coliseum with their classic disco hits such as "Y.M.C.A.," "In The Navy," "Macho Man," "You Can't Stop The Music," "We Are Family," "He's The Greatest Dancer" and many more.

"Retro Mania: Village People and Sister Sledge Live in Manila!" is their first back-to-back performance ever.

The Village People sold more than 65 million records and were on top of the charts until the early '80s. Call 911-5555 or 633-9825 to 27.

VILLAGE People

Winston free Show

Winston Free Show at Sta. Lucia East in Cainta on July 1 topbills Freestyle, True Faith and Unity.

The party also marks the release of True Faith's new album, "Stray to be Found," from EMI Philippines.

Fun games and exclusive freebies await party-goers. Since Wings Tour events are known to last till the wee hours, no one under 18 will be admitted. Valid IDs might be required at the door.

On July 7, Wing Tours features Bambo at Mayric's; on July 15, it's Bamboo again, at Aruba Ortigas.

FREESTYLE

Maharlikang Filipino

The finals of Maharlikang Filipino 2006 talent search is set on Saturday, June 1, at the Clamshell (Anda St., Intramuros)

The search, now in its 13th year, has gone global. Standout finalists are Carlo Garcia from New York, Gerald Mutia from San Francisco, Eris Acosta from Ontario and Eugene Bautista from LA.

Bykes Café

Bykes Café, Manila's only bistro, dance studio and big bike showroom rolled into one, recently opened The Lounge for discriminating executives.

Musical evenings start on Wednesdays with the party band Flintones and the Gang, a 21st century reincarnation of the famed "D Flintstones" of the '60s. Balikbayan crooner Ronnie Diao takes the stage Thursdays and Fridays.

Bykes Café is at 2241 Chino Roces Ave. corner Sabio St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Call 750-0622 to 23.

SHOW TIME

June 29

Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at RJTV Bar

Sandilea and MYMP at Tavern on the Square

Acoustic Jive at Merk's Bar

June 30

Roselle Nava with guest Reuben Laurente at Zirkoh, Angeles, Pampanga

Mark Herras at SM Southmall; 5 p.m.

RJ 'n Friends and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar

Go Girls album launch at Bronx Dance Bar

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square

Cascades 2006 World Tour in Davao City

MTV Live Sessions at Café Lupe featuring Orange and Lemons

Solace at SM North Edsa

July 1

Cascades 2006 World Tour in Cagayan de Oro City

Shamrock album mall tour at SM Bicutan; 5 p.m.

July 2

Erik Santos at SM Fairview

July 4

Reuben Laurente at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar

July 5

Reuben Laurente with Leo Valdez, Bituin Escalante, JM Rodriguez and Calvin Millado at the CCP Main Theater for the Philippine Obstetrical Society's 60th Anniversary

July 7

Backroom Musical Caravan with Erik Santos, Frenchie Dy, Kim Flores, K and the Boxers and Rufa Mae Quinto in Marbel City

July 8

"Cheers to Life with Toti Fuentes" at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

Backroom Musical Caravan with Erik Santos, Frenchie Dy, Kim Flores, K and the Boxers and Rufa Mae Quinto in Marbel City

July 9

Erik Santos at SM Batangas

July 11

Reuben Laurente at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar

July 15

"For Love of Life" benefit concert for premature babies featuring the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Akafellas, Charlie Rancudo, Hazel Antolin, Corito Sarabia, the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Children and the Singles Apostolate Worship Team at the Insular Life Theater, Filinvest Alabang Muntinlupa; 6 p.m.

Erik Santos and Sheryn Regis at Summit Center, Zamboanga City

Roselle Nava with guest Reuben Laurente at The Library, Lipa

July 16

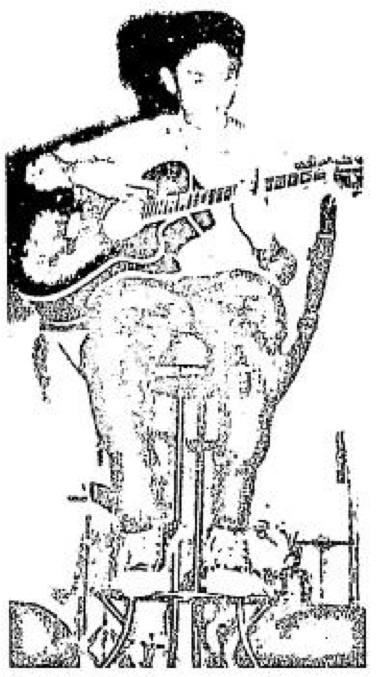
Erik Santos at Pavilion Mall

July 18

Reuben Laurente at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar

July 20

Roselle Nava with guest Reuben Laurente at Zirkoh, Quezon City



ULYSSES Villena, son of Alex and Ana Villena, plays "Nobela" on his guitar during the "Music & Me" grand recital of the LNJ Pop Music & Academic Tutorial Services at the Meralco Theater, Ortigas on June 16.

July 23

Erik Santos at SM Marilao

July 25

Reuben Laurente at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar

July 27

Roselle Nava with guest Reuben Laurente at 22nd Street

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7771
THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 SCARY MOVIE 4	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LAKE HOUSE	5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT	6 SUPERMAN RETURNS	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 KINSEY	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:15, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:35, 4:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30, 2:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS		
	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 SCARY MOVIE 4
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SCARY MOVIE 4		
	3 SCARY MOVIE 4	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6096900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782, from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Philippine Retailers Association's Retail Careers & Jobs Fair June 28 to 29, 2006	Gary V Live in concert! July 1, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Wellness Revo June 30, 2006	Sony Summer Pleasures 2006 June 19 to July 12, 2006

GREENBELT
Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage
JAZZ AND MORE feat. Mon David w/ Bituin Escalante
July 8, 2006
For inquiries, pls. call Ticketworld - 8915610 or 4260103

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

SUPERMAN RETURNS
www.supermanreturns.com

OPENS TODAY AT ALL
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
Go FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET™
Reserve your seat by texting SURESEATS GB3
at 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation

AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' SUPERMAN RETURNS™ SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JUNE 28 ONLY

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 12:45 PM, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
Cinema 2 - 10:30 AM, 1:45 PM, 5:00, 8:15
Cinema 3* - 1:15 PM, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00
Cinema 6** - 12:15 PM, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Cinema 7 - 11:45 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:15, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 2:15 PM, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00
Cinema 2* - 1:35 PM, 4:50, 11:20
Cinema 3** - 12:00 NN, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
Cinema 4** - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
Cinema 5** - 11:30 AM, 2:45 PM

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 2 - 12:40 PM, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

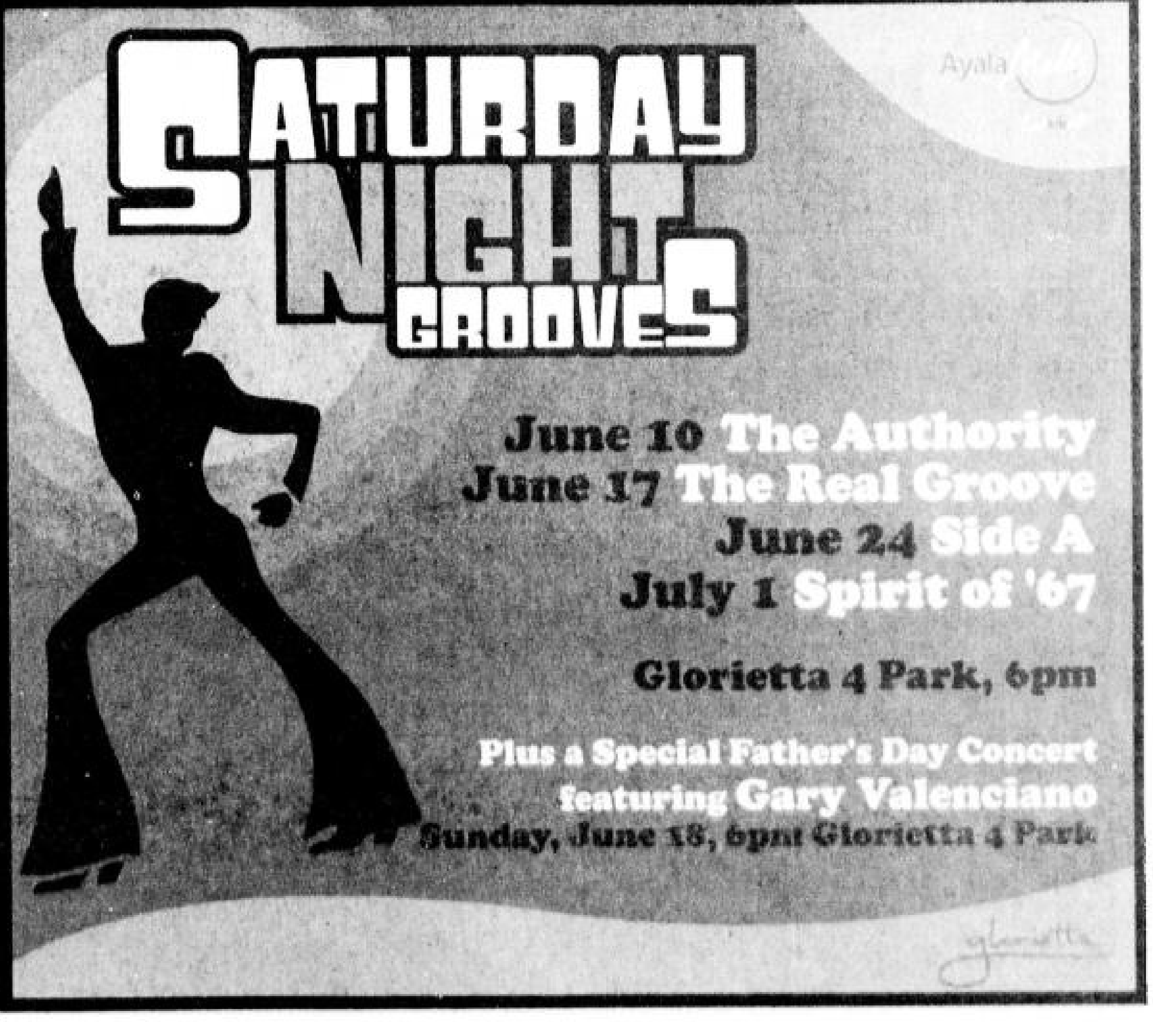
GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 3 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 5 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:55 PM, 6:05, 9:15
Cinema 4 - 12:15 PM, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
Cinema 5 - 11:15 AM, 2:25 PM, 5:35, 8:45

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 12:00 NN, 2:45, 5:50, 9:15
Cinema 2 - 12:15 PM, 3:00, 6:05, 9:30

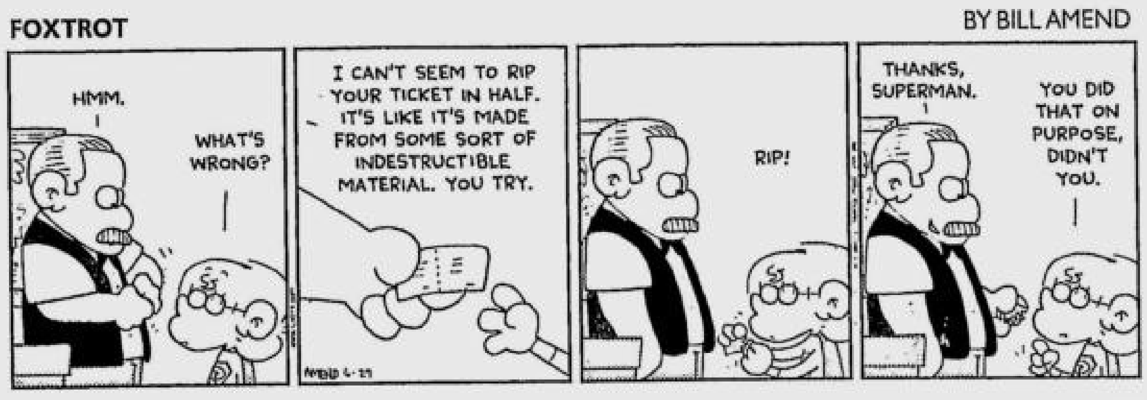
* THX & Guaranteed Seat Cinema
** Digital Sound & Guaranteed Seat Cinemas
Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (All Ages Admitted)



SATURDAY NIGHT GROOVES
June 10 The Authority
June 17 The Real Groove
June 24 Side A
July 1 Spirit of '67
Glorietta 4 Park, 6pm
Plus a Special Father's Day Concert
featuring Gary Valenciano
Sunday, June 18, 6pm Glorietta 4 Park

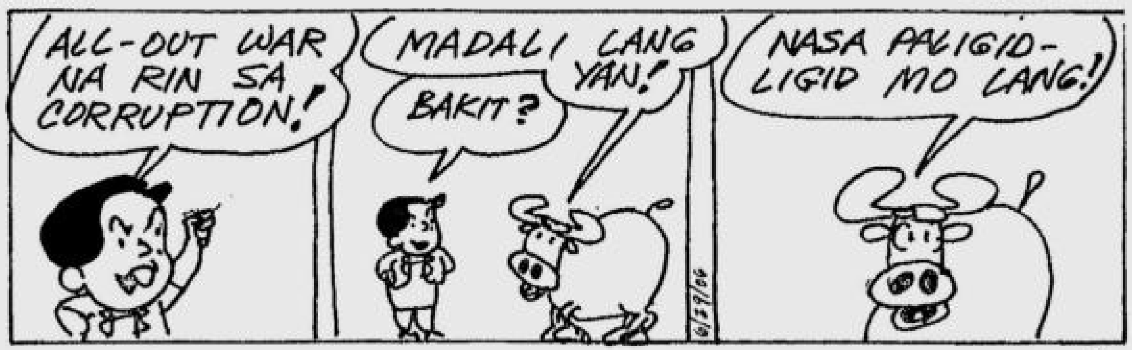
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HMM.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN'T SEEM TO RIP YOUR TICKET IN HALF. IT'S LIKE IT'S MADE FROM SOME SORT OF INDESTRUCTIBLE MATERIAL. YOU TRY.
AMEND 6-29
RIP!
THANKS, SUPERMAN.
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU.

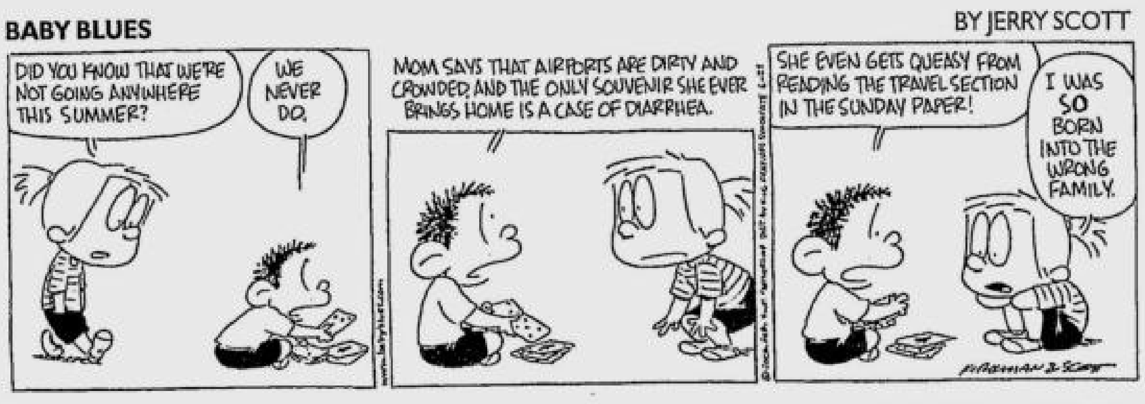
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALL-OUT WAR NA RIN SA CORRUPTION!
MADALI LANG YAN!
BAKIT?
6/29/06
NASA PALIGID-LIGID MO LANG!

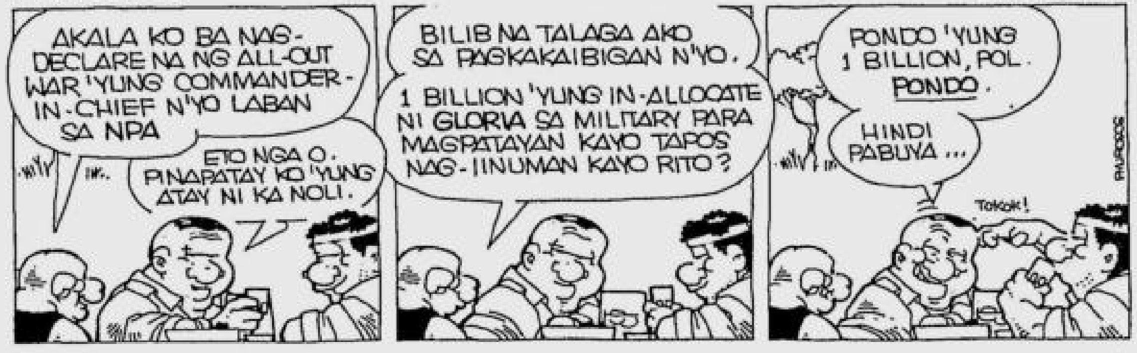
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DID YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE THIS SUMMER?
WE NEVER DO.
MOM SAYS THAT AIRPORTS ARE DIRTY AND CROWDED, AND THE ONLY SOUVENIR SHE EVER BRINGS HOME IS A CASE OF DIARRHEA.
SHE EVEN GETS QUEASY FROM READING THE TRAVEL SECTION IN THE SUNDAY PAPER!
I WAS SO BORN INTO THE WRONG FAMILY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

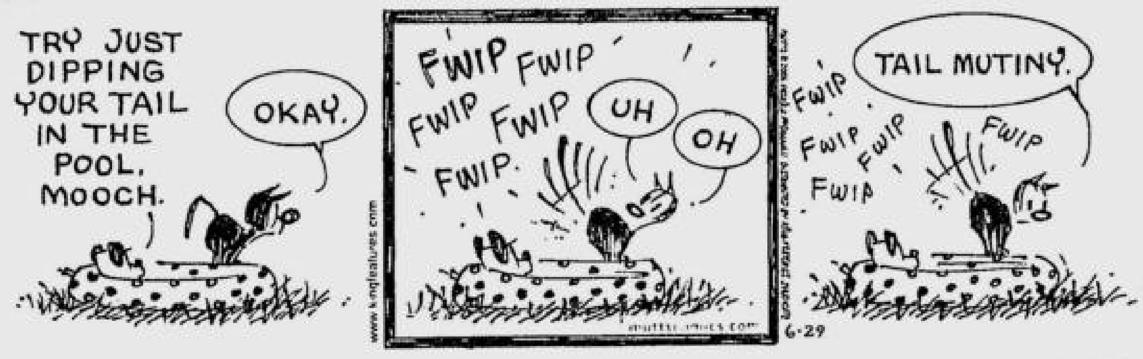
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKALA KO BA NAG-DECLARE NA NG ALL-OUT WAR 'YUNG COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF N'YO LABAN SA NPA
ETO NGA O. PINAPATAY KO 'YUNG ATAY NI KA NOLI.
BILIB NA TALAGA AKO SA PAGKAKAIBIGAN N'YO.
1 BILLION 'YUNG IN-ALLOCATE NI GLORIA SA MILITARY PARA MAGPATAYAN KAYO TAPOS NAG-IINUMAN KAYO RITO?
PONDO 'YUNG 1 BILLION, POL. PONDO.
HINDI PABUYA...
TOKOK!

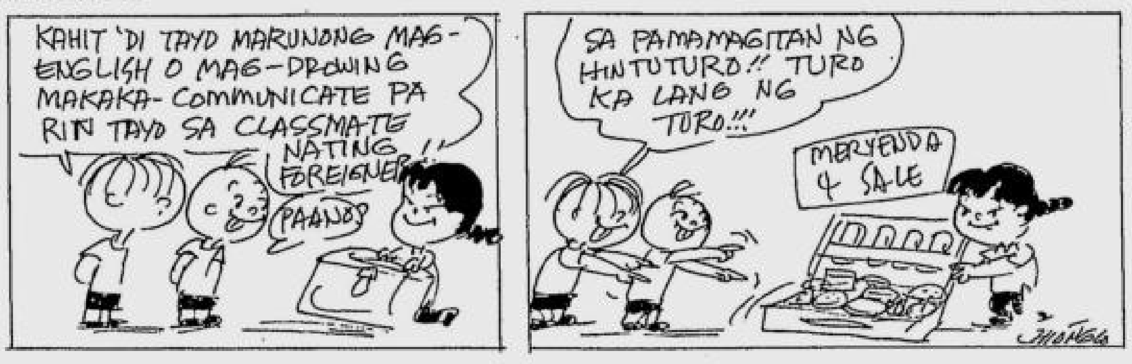
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


TRY JUST DIPPING YOUR TAIL IN THE POOL, MOOCH.
OKAY.
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
UH
OH
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
TAIL MUTINY.
6-29

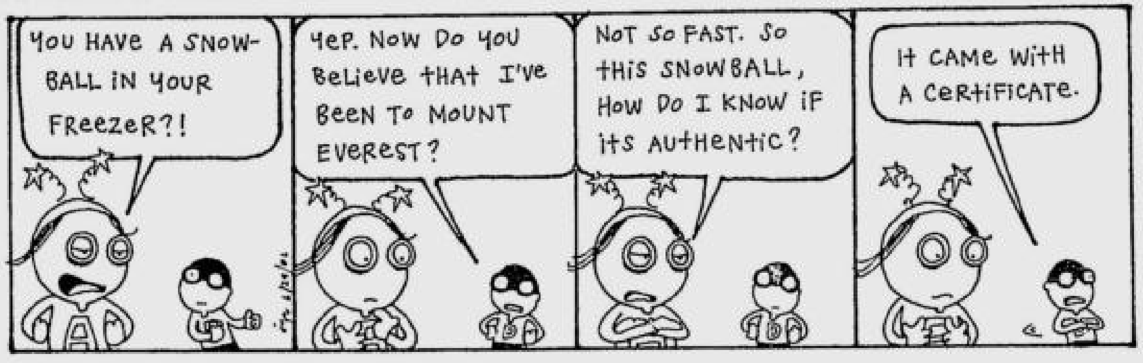
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAHIT 'DI TAYO MARUNONG MAG-ENGLISH O MAG-DROWING MAKAKA-COMMUNICATE PA RIN TAYO SA CLASSMATE NATING FOREIGNER!
PAANO?
SA PAMAMAGITAN NG HINTUTURO!! TURO KA LANG NG TURO!!!
MERYENDA 4 SALE
CHIONGLO

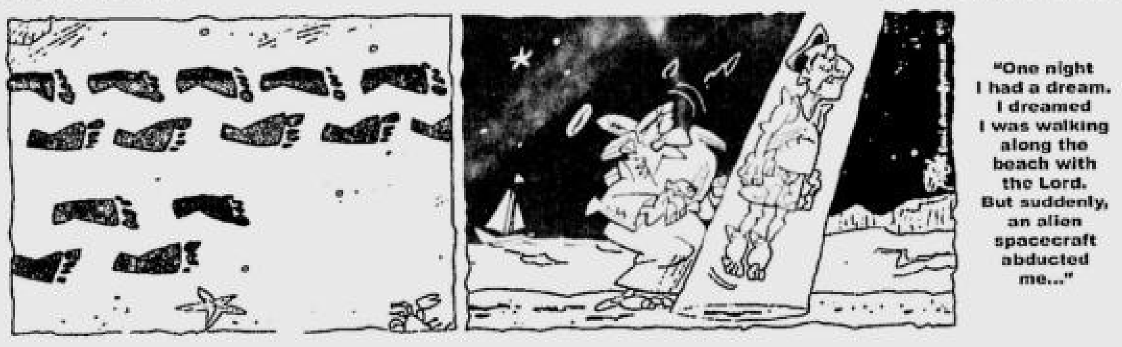
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You HAVE A SNOW-BALL IN YOUR FREEZER?!
YEP. NOW DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I'VE BEEN TO MOUNT EVEREST?
NOT SO FAST. SO THIS SNOWBALL, HOW DO I KNOW IF ITS AUTHENTIC?
IT CAME WITH A CERTIFICATE.

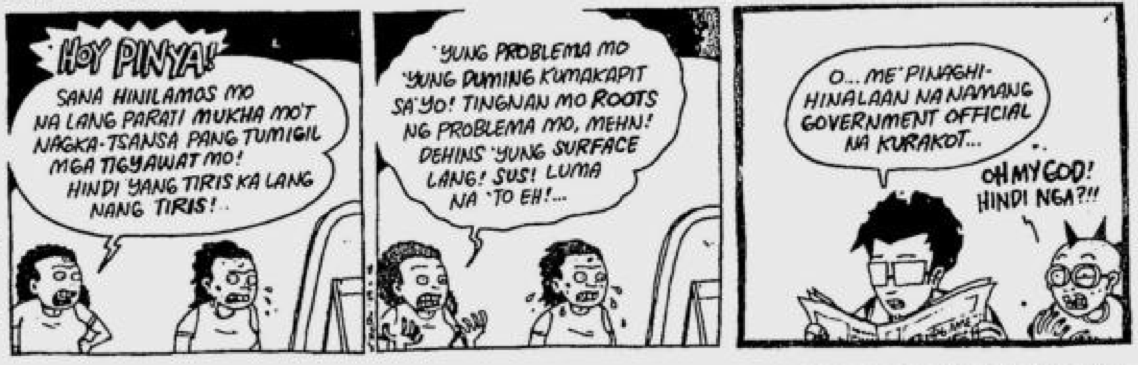
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


"One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. But suddenly, an alien spacecraft abducted me..."

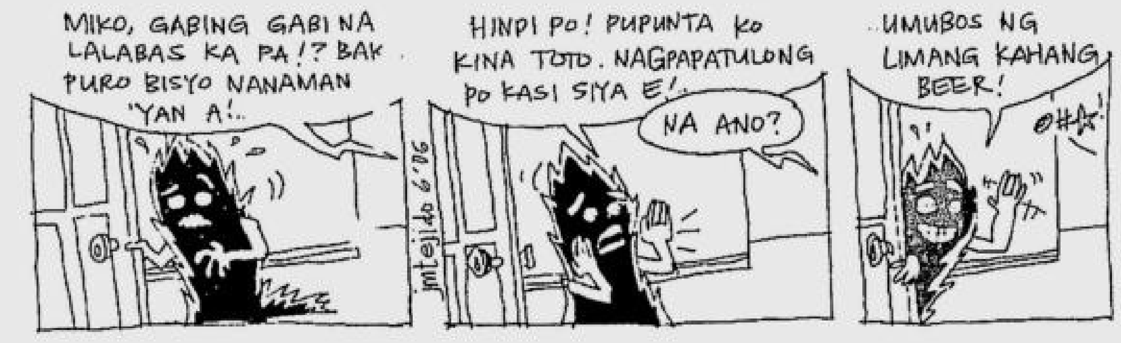
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HOY PINYA!
SANA HINILAMOS MO NA LANG PARATI MUKHA MO'T NAGKA-TSANSA PANG TUMIGIL MGA TIGYAWAT MO! HINDI YANG TIRIS KA LANG NANG TIRIS!
'YUNG PROBLEMA MO 'YUNG DUMING KUMAKAPIT SA'YO! TINGNAN MO ROOTS NG PROBLEMA MO, MEHN! DEHINS 'YUNG SURFACE LANG! SUS! LUMA NA 'TO EH!...
O... ME' PINAGHI-HINALAAN NA NAMANG GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL NA KURAKOT...
OH MY GOD! HINDI NGA?!!

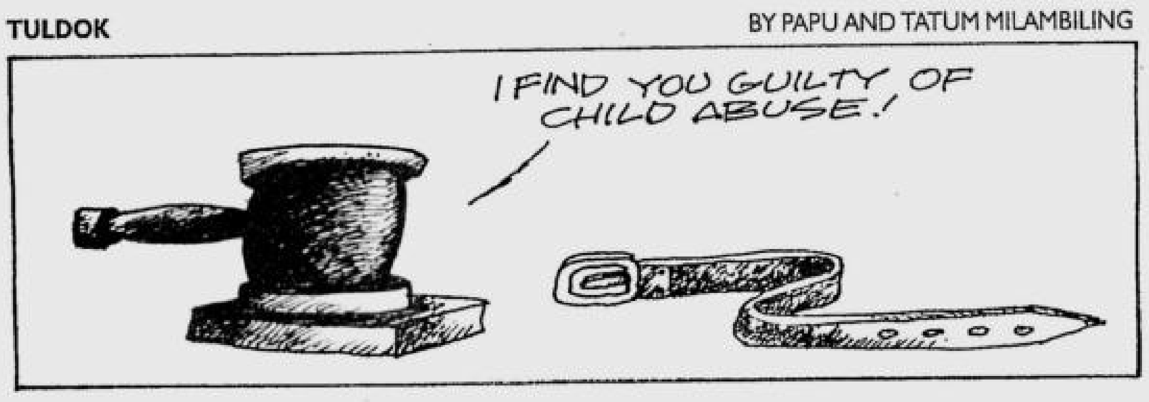
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MIKO, GABING GABI NA LALABAS KA PA!? BAK PURO BISYO NANAMAN 'YAN A!..
HINDI PO! PUPUNTA KO KINA TOTO. NAGPAPATULONG PO KASI SIYA E!
NA ANO?
mtejido 6'06
UMUBOS NG LIMANG KAHANG BEER!
@#☆!

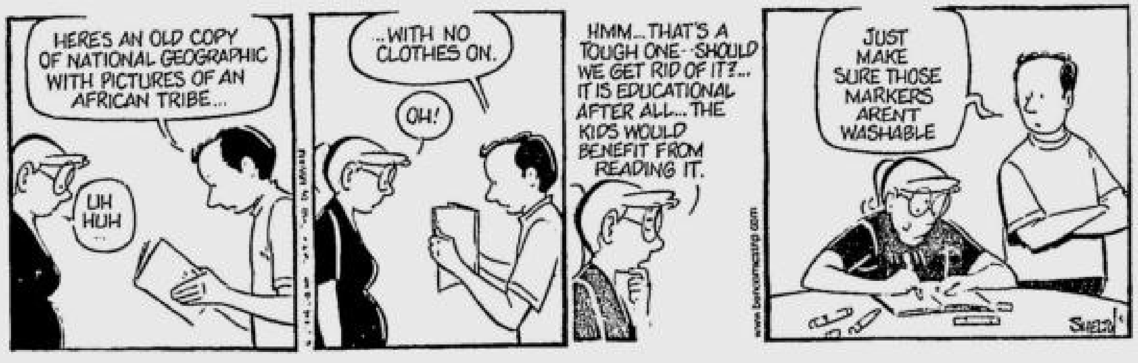
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

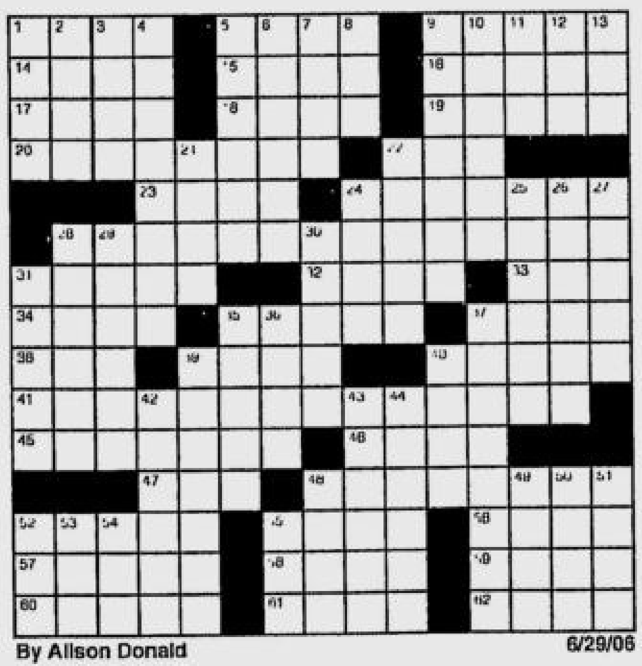

I FIND YOU GUILTY OF CHILD ABUSE!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERES AN OLD COPY OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WITH PICTURES OF AN AFRICAN TRIBE...
UH HUH
...WITH NO CLOTHES ON.
OH!
HMM... THAT'S A TOUGH ONE--SHOULD WE GET RID OF IT?... IT IS EDUCATIONAL AFTER ALL... THE KIDS WOULD BENEFIT FROM READING IT.
JUST MAKE SURE THOSE MARKERS ARENT WASHABLE
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alison Donald
Hartsdale, NY

ACROSS
1 Practice boxing
5 Quick and skillful
9 Holy hymn
14 Key pie ingredient
15 Rights org.
16 Roman courtyards
17 Perched upon
18 Wilson of the NHL Hall of Fame
19 Permanent prisoner
20 Start of a quip
22 Harden
23 Actress Skye
24 End result
28 Part 2 of quip
31 Medieval tale
32 Word on diet foods
33 Harbor boat
34 "Upside Down" singer
35 Part 3 of quip
37 Rational
38 LAX info
39 Makes a wager
40 Etching fluids
41 Part 4 of quip
45 Increase the tempo
46 Guitar ridge
47 On the __ (fleeing)
48 End of quip
52 French soldier of WW I
55 Shaving-cream ingredient
56 Great review
57 Egyptian weight
58 Dylan Thomas poem, "__ Hill"
59 Writer Ambler
60 Cherished ones
61 Former Majority Leader Trent
62 Finishes off

DOWN
1 Close with a bang
2 Bread with a pocket
3 God of love
4 Does a second watercolor
5 British writer Du Maurier
6 Parrot
7 Custard treat
8 Boy king
9 Painter's mixing board
10 Sew up
11 Canine comment
12 Whopper
13 Besmirch
21 Sound quality
22 Businessmen, informally
24 Booboo
25 Procure
26 __ Thursday
27 Margins
28 Weed out
29 Dangerous
30 Agitate a liquid
31 Pungent salad ingredient
35 Blood fluid
36 URL starter
37 Without punishment
39 Ornaments in a vulgar way
40 "A Death in the Family" author
42 Rapid Robert of baseball
43 Struggle
44 Passionate
48 Bread spread
49 Deserve
50 Keen
51 Fictional gumshoes
52 Cushion
53 Galena or bauxite
54 Wash. neighbor
55 __-CIO

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	P	S	■	A	D	A	M	S	■	R	A	P	A
C	H	O	W	■	T	O	W	E	L	■	O	R	E	L
R	O	N	A	■	T	E	A	S	E	■	O	M	N	I
O	R	D	I	N	A	R	Y	S	E	A	M	A	N	■
S	T	E	N	O	■	■	■	Y	T	D	■	M	A	T
S	S	R	■	R	A	H	E	■	S	E	H	E	N	E
■	■	■	B	I	L	O	X	I	■	■	A	N	T	E
■	U	S	U	A	L	S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S	■
O	N	E	S	■	■	F	L	L	E	R	Y	■	■	■
S	L	A	T	E	S	■	T	E	A	R	■	S	A	T
O	O	H	■	L	P	S	■	■	■	O	A	T	E	R
■	C	O	M	M	O	N	C	O	U	R	T	E	S	Y
O	K	R	A	■	R	O	L	L	S	■	E	R	O	S
B	E	S	T	■	T	R	A	D	E	■	S	E	P	T
I	D	E	E	■	S	E	W	E	R	■	T	O	S	S

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6/29/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're skilled at dealing with others because you understand the human psyche. You know what makes people tick. (That's because you're a perceptive people-watcher.) You're supportive to those within your own group. People regard you as their teacher. You need to learn something very important this year. (Give yourself time to do this.) **Birthdate of:** Nelson Eddy, actor; Sharon Lawrence, actress; Fred Grandy, actor/politician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A friend or a member of a group might confuse you today. However, creative dealings with writing and anything having to do with publishing, education and the media can be improved.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Act on your urge to make improvements to your home or within your family dynamic. Be diplomatic. You can't ask others to change just because you want this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're extremely convincing today. You can cajole, sell, market, teach and influence anyone to do anything. (Just about.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might see new ways of using your money or earning it. Perhaps you see new applications for things you already own. Stay away from any money situations that confuse you today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today four planets are in your sign. Zowie! This could be why you feel so strong and emotional about things. Continue to make improvements to your appearance. (Lookin' good!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ruler, Mercury, is about to go retrograde for the next month. Expect to meet people from your past and experience a lot of snafus, delays and confused communications.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Old friends will be back in your life soon. Get together and trade lies. Use these contacts to your advantage. It's good to have history with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Something from your past—and it could be related to bosses, authority figures or parents—returns like a boomerang now. This could be an opportunity for a second chance. Ya think?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might want to tweak or improve matters related to publishing, higher education and travel. You have an urge to clean up and repair things today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day for research. You're looking for answers. You might find them, and you might find some juicy gossip as well! (Oh, joy.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You want to improve your relations with current partners and ex-partners. You might as well have the best relationship with an ex-partner that you can. Why not?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Some old ideas you had to improve things at work might be doable now. Don't be afraid to make suggestions. Get rid of anything that is no longer useful or necessary for your work. Clean up!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	5			1			2	
9		1				3		7
	7		2		8		9	
		6				1		
3								5
		2				8		
	3		4		9		5	
2		9				4		6
	6			8			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/29

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

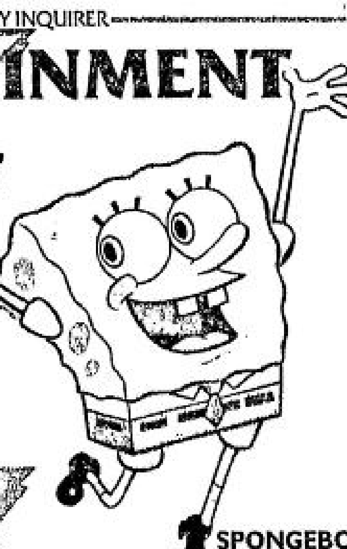
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	1	8	2	5	7	3	9	4
4	9	5	6	8	3	1	7	2
3	7	2	9	4	1	5	6	8
5	2	7	8	3	4	9	1	6
1	4	3	5	6	9	2	8	7
9	8	6	1	7	2	4	5	3
2	3	1	7	9	8	6	4	5
7	6	9	4	2	5	8	3	1
8	5	4	3	1	6	7	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

Meet, greet 10 top toons



SPONGEBOB Squarepants

TEN POPULAR AND LOVABLE characters join the grand opening of the first Toys R 'Us store in Robinsons Galleria.

On July 2, Jim Davis' lovable feline Garfield and Strat-Ice's mighty acorn hunter, open the special series of meet-and-greet events at the mall's fountain area at 3 p.m. On July 9, the special guests are Cartoon Network's Powerpuff Girls—Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup. Nickelodeon's Spongebob Squarepants and free-spirited Latina heroine, Dora, the Explorer is scheduled for the July 23 and July 30 legs, respectively.

Special prizes and freebies will be given to lucky shoppers and mallers.

DORA

Drama workshop

Sining Sambaydiwa and Teatro Frisco are jointly conducting the Saturday Drama Workshop: Acting Onstage & On Camera for children, teens and adults, at the Ninoy Aquino Park & Wildlife Nature Center in Diliman, Quezon City, starting July 22.

The workshop will consist of 10 academic sessions and 10 laboratory sessions and will wind up on Sept. 30. A graduation showcase presentation will be held on Nov. 30.

Advance registration will be at the Ninoy Aquino Park on July 1, 8 and 15, 1 to 5 p.m. Weekday registrations, exclusively for San Francisco del Monte residents, will be at # 7-A Macario Rivera St. Call 376-2267.

Belters' course

The Center for Pop Music Philippines Inc. launches a specialized course for singers on July 5 in all its branches.

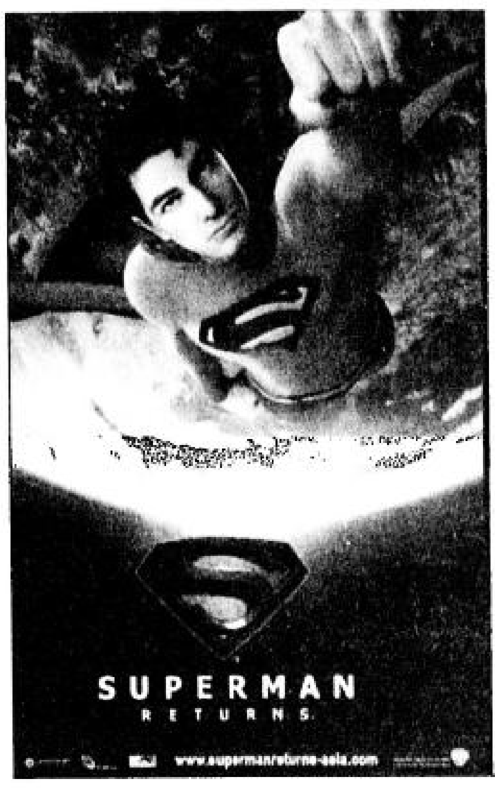
Called the CPMP "Belters' Course," this six-day singing lessons is open to kids, teens and adults.

The course offers techniques to bring out the singers' voice quality and power, specially for pop singing.

The lessons also help overcome the students' shyness and stage fright. Other specialized courses offered are Stage Performance, Reaching High Notes and Modulation.

Among the products of the center are Sarah Geronimo, Nina, Nyoy Volante, Rachelle Ann Go, Jonalyn Viray, Erik Santos, King, Dessa, Jimmy Bondoc, Frenchie Dy and Cookie Chua.

Call 727-5293 or 723-9373.



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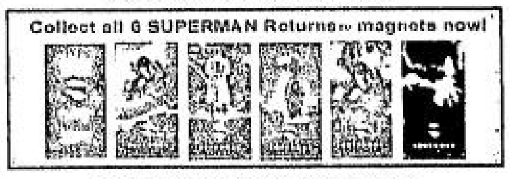

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E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

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1	SUPERMAN RETURNS	11:30, 2:55, 6:20, 9:45	G
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:50, 4:20, 11:10	G
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:10, 3:40, 10:30	G
4	FAST & FURIOUS 3	12:10	PG-13
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS	5:35, 9:00	G

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SUPERMAN RETURNS G 11:40,2:35,5:35,8:35	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:45,3:45,9:45	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 1:20,4:20,10:20
SUPERMAN RETURNS G 12:10,3:10,6:10,9:10	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 2:00,5:00,8:00,11:05

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41

SHANG CINEPLEX

① SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
1 40, 4 50, 8.00, 11:10

② SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3 50, 7 00, 10.10

③ FAST AND THE FURIOUS
MTRCB PG-13 12 40 3 00
SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP 6 20

④ SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
1 10, 4 20, 7 30, 10.40

PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPERMAN RETURNS
11 30, 2 40, 5 50, 9 00
MTRCB GP

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NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	FAST & THE FURIOUS / SUPERMAN RETURNS	11:30, 1:50, 4:10 6:30 / 8:50	PG13 / GP
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:20, 3:30, 6:40 9:50	GP

DOLBY DIGITAL

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS	10:20, 1:25, 4:35 7:45, 10:50	GP
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS	11:40, 2:45, 5:50 9:00	GP
5	SUPERMAN RETURNS	10:35, 1:40, 4:45 7:50, 10:55	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

JUNE 30,2006	NINA... in VERY MANILOW	9:00PM
JULY 29,2006	PILITA C. & ELIZABETH R.	8:30PM

TIEMPO — PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
JULY 6,2006	PRIME COUNCIL	9:00PM
JULY 7,2006	FREEVERSE	9:00PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

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Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza

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Movie	Times
SCARY MOVIE 4	6:10 / 8:05 / 10:00
THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3	1:00 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
THE LAKE HOUSE	1:20 / 3:30 / 5:40 / 7:50 / 10:00
GARFIELD	12:20 / 2:30 / 4:20
SUPERMAN RETURNS	10:50 / 11:30 / 12:05 / 12:30 / 12:50 1:10 / 2:00 / 2:40 / 3:15 / 3:40 / 4:00 4:20 / 5:10 / 5:50 / 6:25 / 6:50 / 7:10 7:30 / 8:20 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 10:00 / 10:20
SUPERMAN RETURNS (Gateway Platinum Cinema)	11:40 / 2:50 / 6:00 / 9:10

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

Ali MALL 5

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00
2	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:00 R2 / 2:35 / 5:30 / 8:25
3	SUPERMAN RETURNS	12.05 R4 / 2:00 / 4.55 / 7:50
4	THE NUN	12:10 / 1:55 / 3:40 / 5:25 / 7:10 / 8:55
5	SCARY MOVIE	12:05 / 1:50 / 3:35 / 5:20 / 7:05 / 9:00

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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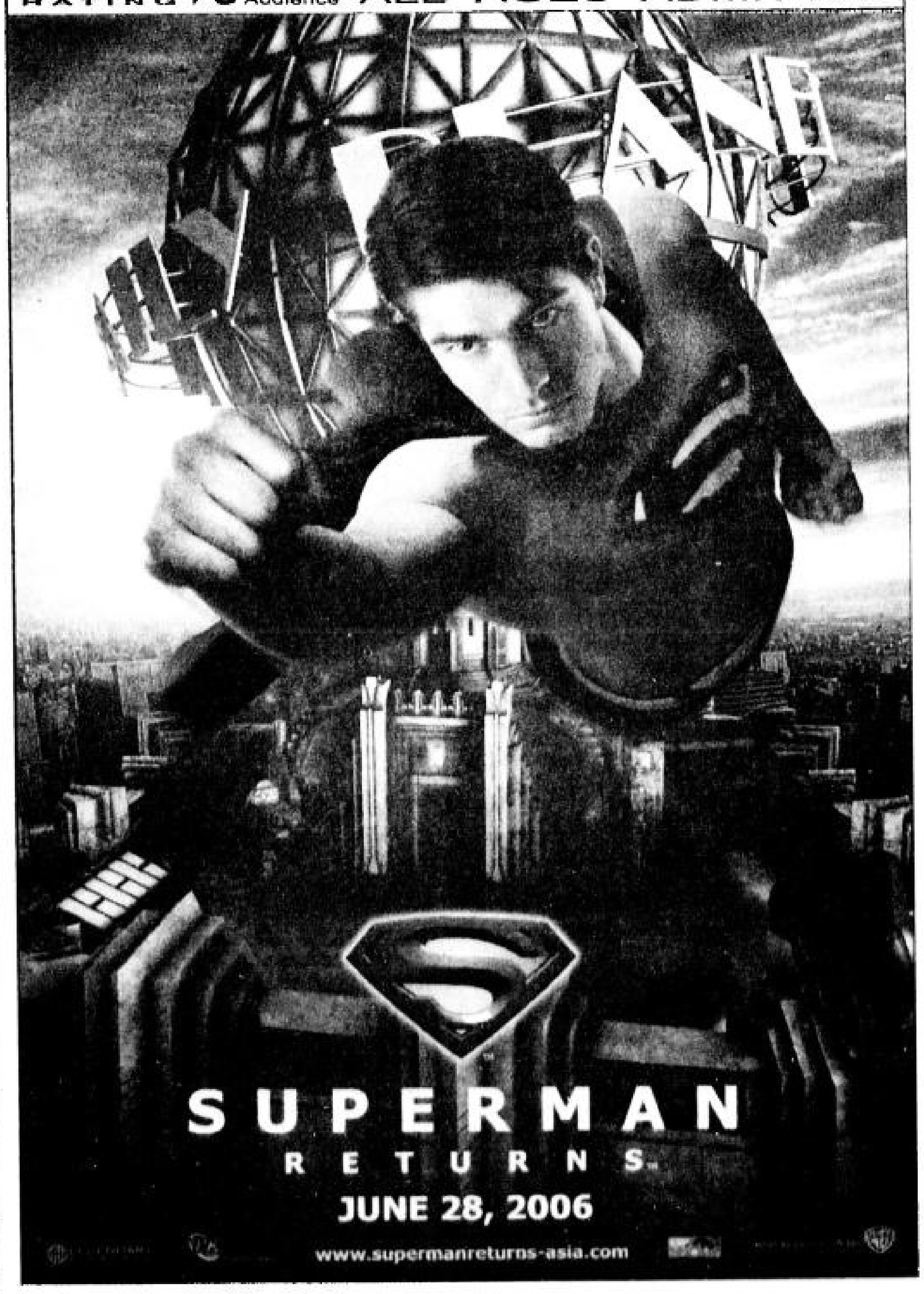

SUPERMAN RETURNS
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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3 / SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
PREMIERE
SUPERMAN RETURNS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

starmall EDSA - SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268160
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 FAST 7 THE FURIOUS -3

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433994
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 WHORE
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM THEATRES
1 SCARY MOVIE - 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6371
1 PACQUIAO
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS - 3
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 LAKE HOUSE
8 SCARY MOVIE - 4
9 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niña, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 (DOLBY) THE FAST & THE FURIOUS - 3

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 THE NUN
5 PACQUIAO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 WHORE
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 PACQUIAO
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THE OMEN 666

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUBMERGED
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 PACQUIAO

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CARS
2 PACQUIAO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3 / SUPERMAN RETURNS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SCARY MOVIE - 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LAKE HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111148
1 LAKE HOUSE
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 PACQUIAO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PACQUIAO
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 THE INSIDE MAN
2 PACQUIAO
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867738
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Llanas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE OMEN 666
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 MASAKIT WAG MONG IPILIT
3 THE DESCENT
4 WHORE

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
5 PACQUIAO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 INSIDE MAN
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SCARY MOVIE - 4
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2830 / 879.2029
1 [illegible] BAYARAN
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

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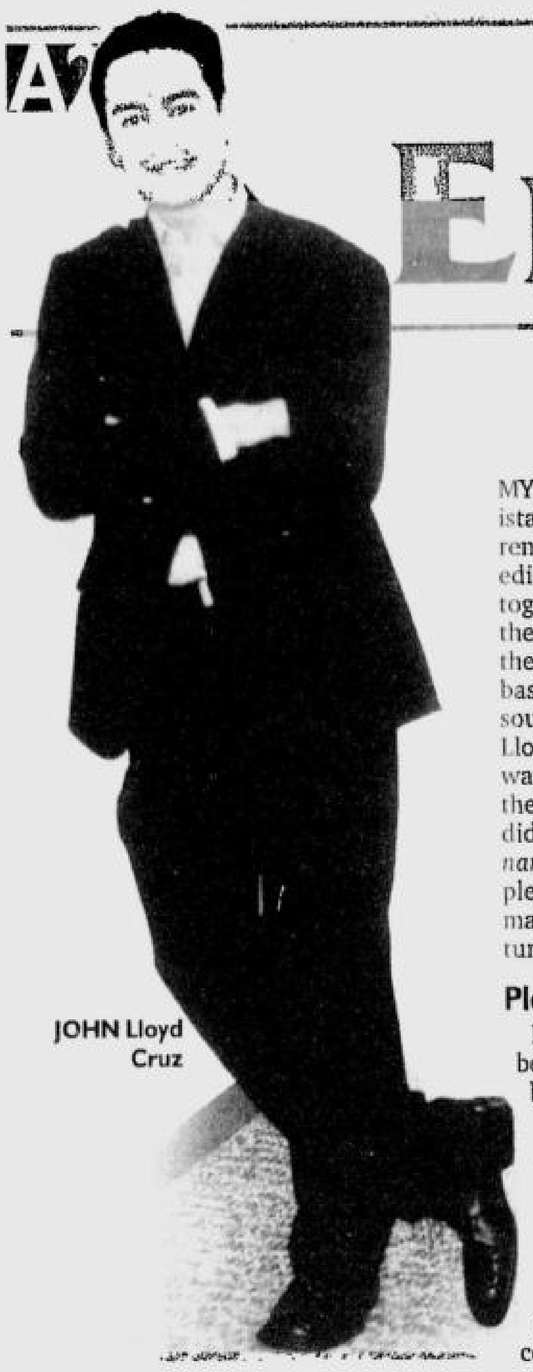
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

John Lloyd's girlfriend is a magazine editor


JOHN Lloyd Cruz

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MY FRIENDS FROM THE "FASHIONista" world insist that **John Lloyd's** current squeeze is **Liz Uy**, the fab fashion editor of Preview magazine. They were together during the DJ Tiesto event at the PICC last March and the Preview anniversary bash last Saturday. My source adds, "John Lloyd's ex, **Ciara Sotto**, was also around during the mag's party but I didn't sense any tension *naman*." Are the hip couple keeping their romance low-key, lest show biz intrigues turn everything off-key?

Plea for privacy

I texted **Pia Guanio** for the real score between her and **Vic Sotto**. They have both remained mum about the issue.

She replied, "I just know I'm happy. Hope you are, too."

I texted her back: "Is that a confirmation?" Her response: "It's a 'no comment.'"

As a friend, I respect Pia's plea for privacy. But won't her viewers find it odd that a talk show host who grills celebs about their love life refuses to talk about hers?

I remember what my *kumareng* **Janice de Belen** told me when she quit "S-Files": "I felt weird asking guests personal questions when I was hesitant to open up about what was going on in my life at that time."

Maybe there ought to be a commandment in the biz that goes, "Don't ask of others what you wouldn't want to be asked of you."

Classy, not tacky

Ruffa Gutierrez would rather set aside all the hullabaloo about the pricey gown she'll be wearing as one of the hosts of the 22nd PMPC Star Awards for Movies tomorrow (delayed telecast at 10:45 p.m. on Studio 23).

"I'm not tacky. I'm classy. I don't flaunt how much what I'm wearing costs. It all started as a joke that was blown out of proportion. I'd rather that people don't look at what I'm wearing but at how well I will host the awards. It's been quite a while. I'm particularly excited about the affair 'cause my two daughters will walk down the red carpet also."

LIZ Uy

Motherhood. That's one thing Ruffa wears so well. More than all the gowns that wear out, anyway.

Princess Lovi

"Da King's" princess **Lovi**, now a young woman at 17, releases her much anticipated 13-track debut album "The Best of My Heart" (under Sony BMG). "In this album, I gave my all... heart and soul," said Lovi. It's a chameleon-like variety of changing moods, from the romantic ballad to the upbeat. Among the songs in the collection, she considers "You're Still Here," the one she dedicates to her late dad as the closest to her heart.

I remember how her dad used to call me "Proxy" because every time I bumped into him at weddings where he was a *ninong*, I would be the proxy for my mom as a *ninang*.

No doubt, Tito Ron is now proudly telling my mom in heaven, "Inday, my daughter Lovi can sing better than the choir of angels we have here."

That is, I can hear him harping about Lovi amid all the harps playing up there.

Manhattan Transfer

On July 7, "Prince of Jazz" **Richard Merk** opens the Manhattan Transfer concert at the Araneta Coliseum. The Manhattan Transfer hits include "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square," "Operator," "Smile Again," "Birdland," "Boy from New York City," "Twilight Zone," "Until I Met You," "It's Gonna Take a Miracle," "On The Boulevard", and "Shaker's Song." The Manhattan Transfer show in Manila is produced by Rene de Guia's Ovation Productions. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets. Call 911-555 for inquiries.

(For feedback e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com.)

ROUNDUP

Sandler comedy 'clicks'!

ADAM Sandler

LOS ANGELES—ADAM SANDLER TOOK CHARGE of the remote control at the weekend box office.

Sandler's comic fantasy "Click," about a man whose new universal remote takes control of his life and leaves it in chaos, debuted as the No. 1 movie in the United States and Canada with $40 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday, according to Exhibitor Relations, official trackers:

1) "Click," $40M; 2) "Cars," $22.5M; 3) "Nacho Libre," $12.1M; 4) "Waist Deep," $9.5M; 5) "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," $9.2M; 6) "The Lake House," $8.3M; 7) "The Break-Up," $6.1M; 8) "Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties," $4.75M; 9) "X-Men: The Last Stand," $4.4M; 10) "The Da Vinci Code," $4M. AP

Filmmaker's Night

THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION holds the next of its Filmmaker's Night Series on July 3, 8:30 p.m., at '70s Bistro, 46 Anonas St., Project 2, Quezon City.

Featured director is Butch Nolasco, whose documentary, "Legacy: Philippine World Heritage Sites," won the most awards in last year's Moonrise Film Festival.

Nolasco also directed "EDSA 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan," "A Legacy of Heroes: The Story of Bataan and Corregidor" (Best Documentary, 2003 Catholic Mass Media Awards), "Siglo Filipino: Odyssety of a Nation," and 'Jose Rizal: Ang Buhay ng Isang Bayani."

The July 3 event will also feature ethno-rock music by Kadangyan and some poetry reading. Call 721-7360.

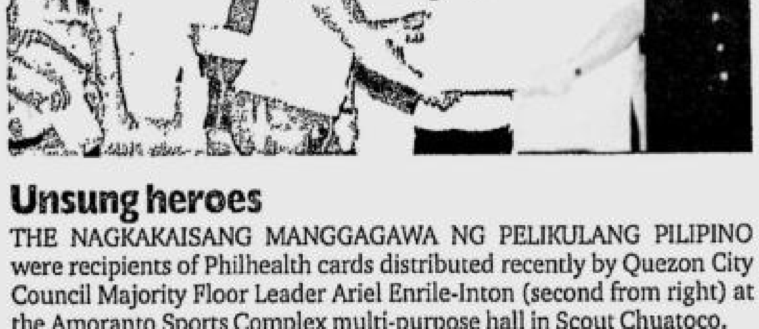
'Probe' docu in NY

"PROBE" RECENTLY PREMIERED AT THE ASIA SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS in New York with its documentary "Mga Batang Mandirigma" ("Child Soldiers"), produced with the support of the United States Institute of Peace.

"Probe" producer Cheche Lazaro presented the film to a diverse audience with Jo Becker of Human Rights Watch and Anjana Shakya of Beyond Beijing Committee for a panel discussion.

"Mga Batang Mandirigma" is a three-hour, three-part series about two young Western-educated Filipino Muslims in a post-9/11 scenario.

"Probe" airs every Thursday after "Insider." Tonight's episode tackles informal settlers, or squatters, in Quezon City; the Hilario Moncado family; and a walking tour of Binondo.



Unsung heroes

THE NAGKAKAISANG MANGGAGAWA NG PELIKULANG PILIPINO were recipients of Philhealth cards distributed recently by Quezon City Council Majority Floor Leader Ariel Enrile-Inton (second from right) at the Amoranto Sports Complex multi-purpose hall in Scout Chuatoco.

NMPP has more than 1,600 members composed of actors and actresses, stunt men, production crews and directors.

Also in picture are, from left: actors Rez Cortez and Richard Gomez, director Joel Lamangan, Tess Mariano of the Quezon City Social Services and Philhealth president Lorna Fajardo.

Record ticket sales

SM MALLS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRE-SALE OF TICKETS FOR yesterday's "Superman Returns: An IMAX 3D Experience" at the San Miguel Coca-Cola IMAX Theater has set a new record in the country. A week before the opening, the first week (six screenings a day) was completely sold out.

The theater has a weekly attendance holding of about 12,000

"Superman Returns" is the world's first live-action Hollywood film featuring select scenes converted into IMAX 3D.

Teens take over TV. . .again!

REVIEW

By Paul Daza

HOT ON THE HEELS of ABS-CBN'S new teen sitcom "Let's Go" is "Posh," a Viva TV production about college students which premiered last Saturday on QTV 11.

Like "Let's Go," "Posh" isn't just meant to provide late afternoon entertainment. Press releases say it's also a venue to hone the talents of a new batch of teen stars. With so many young wannabes being cranked out of TV talent searches, the conclusion is inescapable: Teens are everywhere, and if you're not their age, you're liable to become sick of them very soon.

Like "Let's Go," "Posh" is set in a college where opportunities for culture clashes abound. But where the ABS-CBN show is a laugh track-enhanced sitcom shot mainly in a controlled studio set, "Posh" is a pop song-driven melodrama shot on real locations.

The dissimilarities end there. Even though these programs are stuffed with attractive boys and girls (most of whom we've never seen before), they both handicap their actors by having them portray one-dimensional caricatures. Like "Let's Go," "Posh" has a naïve *probinsyana*, a rich party-goer, an athletic jock and an insecure nerd whose interactions are meant to entertain and educate viewers in weeks to come.

"Posh" stars Gian Carlos and Iwa Moto of "Starstruck 3" Final Four fame. Their co-stars are newcomers Princess Violago, Miguel Nicosia, Vaness del Moral, Vivo Ouano, Hayca Buenavacz, Ivan Carapiet, Nikki Bacolod, PJ Ruprecht, Rhea Nakpil and Joaquin Sebastian.

The pilot episode was undoubtedly well-produced. The characters' school and hangouts look very hip and colorful. In terms of visual impact, this aspect outclasses the cardboard studio look of "Let's Go."

Taking risks

In terms of originality, however, "Let's Go" has a slight edge because its writers at least take a chance by making one of their main characters gay. In past local teen shows, gay characters would only be minor supports. "Posh" takes no such risks and makes no innovations, its creators still probably believing that young actors who play homosexuals are committing career suicide. (And they could be right!)

IWA Moto

What's striking about "Posh's" first episode in terms of scripting was the bluntness in laying the groundwork for the soon-to-explode social class conflicts.

The rich *kikay* girls criticize the poor *probinsiyana's* looks, and one lower middle-class kid tells another in no uncertain terms that rich people are not to be trusted. Even the title of the show, "Posh," hints at the war between the classes. "Posh" refers to the haves, "kaposh" (*kapos*) to the have-nots. Whether this is a brave or tepid movie is too early to tell, but the show's fixation on the rich and poor makes one wonder how "Posh" would have turned out had it been directed by the late Lino Brocka. Would it have turned out like "Meteor Garden"... but with squatters and student rallies?

The folks behind "Posh" have the unenviable task of making their show stand out in a market already crowded with teen shows. Let's hope they succeed—with stories and situations that will truly challenge their stars as actors, and give viewers a truly innovative and entertaining show.

Top radio men

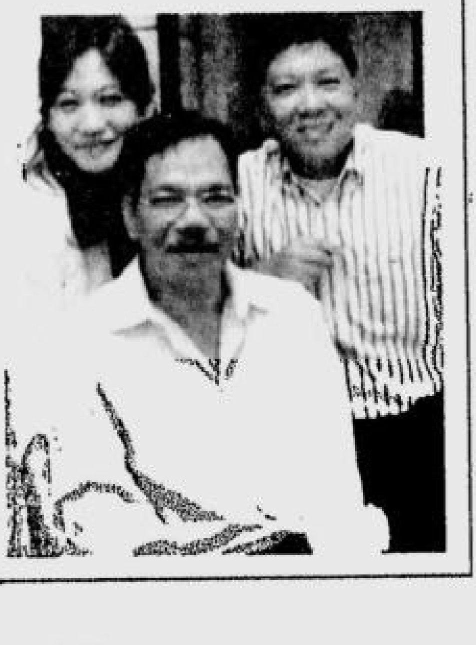
FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, DWIZ 882 was named Radio Station of the Year last week during the the Rotary Club of Manila's Journalism Awards for 2005.

Station manager Rey Langit and program manager Ely Aligora, left, received the award.

DZRH-AM's Joe Taruc was declared "Broadcast Journalist of the Year for Radio—Hall of Fame Awardee."

Taruc (center, right, with RH news anchors Ruth Abao and Deo Macalma) was cited for "continuing contribution to ... broadcast journalism, especially through his program 'Damdaming Bayan.'"

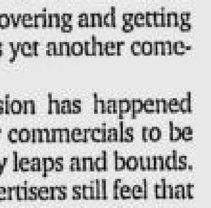
Of the award, Taruc, 59, said: "In over three decades, I have received numerous citations ... but I am most honored to win this in the latter part of my career."



More competitive than ever

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



HAVE YOU NOTICED? NEW TV SHOWS ARE currently being launched practically on a weekly basis—the better to capture viewers' constantly evolving viewing preferences.

This shows how fiercely competitive TV programming has become, especially after GMA 7 caught up and then surpassed ABS-CBN in the ratings race.

Time was when the local TV program schedule had "strong" and "weak" time slots. For instance, would you believe there was a time when morning shows weren't popular, and the early viewing hours made-do with "filler" programs that were replayed endlessly?

These days, of course, the TV schedule starts perking up at 5:30 a.m., with popular morning shows that field many hosts and features.

They are followed by local or imported soaps, then by women's programs, noontime variety or game shows, afternoon dramas or old movies, early evening newscasts, game shows, *telenovela* galore, and late-evening newscasts and public affairs program—all the way past midnight! And, after only a few hours' rest, the daily grind goes full circle again.

What has made television the liveliest and most popular medium of entertainment and information in the country today? The fact that it's "free" is a major factor, of course.

Then, there's the fact that it's co-opted the major stars of the movie world into top-billing TV programs—ironically, thus hastening the decline of Filipino films.

The variety of shows viewers get to see on TV is another attractive feature of the electronic medium. And its fast way of covering and getting the news to people's homes is yet another come-on.

This dominance of television has happened despite the fact that rates for commercials to be aired on TV have increased by leaps and bounds. Despite the high cost, TV advertisers still feel that they get value for money, because the medium attracts millions of viewers to their commercial messages.

But the shallow nature of many TV programs has restricted their long-range ability to excite viewers. Thus, the fast turnover of shows we currently see on the tube.

In the past, TV drama series took years to run their course. These days, if a *telenovela* is not a big hit, it can be rudely terminated after only one season or two.

This is because, in order to rate big, TV shows have to pull in many viewers. So, the cut-off point has been raised, even for programs that would have been regarded as hits some seasons ago.

As a result, the new shows we see making their debut on the tube from week to week are required to make a major impact *fast*, without the lead time that was allowed in the past.

This makes TV production even more nerve-wracking than it used to be, and has forced producers to resort to facile and shallow formats, and to steer clear of risky, "experimental" programs for niche audiences—to the dismay of viewers who want greater variety, depth and sectoral representation in the programming they get on TV.

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PETRON

Peso falters to 53.575 to a dollar

SECURITY BANK TURNS 55
Security Bank Corp. chair Frederick Y. Dy (center), president and chief executive Alberto S. Villarosa (left) and vice chair Paul Y. Ung offer a toast to honor loyal clients during the bank's 55th anniversary party held recently at the Plaza Hotel.

Japan firm upgrades RP credit-rating outlook

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO FALTERED TO A NEW YEAR LOW OF 53.575 TO A DOLLAR yesterday on escalating jitters over prospective interest rate increases in the United States, rising oil prices and fresh attempts to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Late yesterday, however, Japan's leading debt watchdog Rating and Investment Information Inc. (R&I) revised its outlook on the Philippine government's foreign currency obligations to stable from negative, citing recent gains in fiscal reforms. R&I also affirmed the Philippines' investment grade foreign currency rating at "BBB-".

The local currency closed at its intra-day low after opening at 53.48:$1, marking its weakest finish since ending at 53.695 against the greenback last Dec. 13. It shed another 11.5 centavos yesterday from Tuesday's closing rate of 53.46.

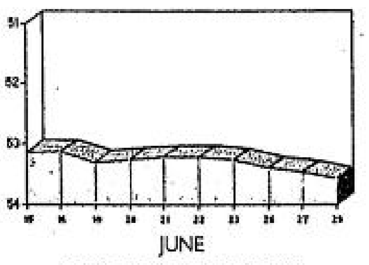
"But I think there's limited room for the peso to slide further because it's nearing oversold levels," said Marcelo Ayes, chief currency dealer at Equitable PCI Bank.

Ayes said the global financial markets had exaggerated expectations of the US Federal Reserve's future monetary tightening, with some offshore analysts projecting key Fed funds rate to hit a high of 6 percent from the

PESO/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



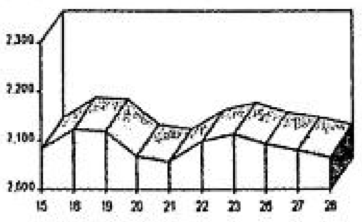
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.575 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 28, 2006

¥ 116.38 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 28, 2006

GOLD: $590.00-590.50
per ounce Hong Kong, June 27, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.72 PERCENT lower yesterday as investors stayed out of the market ahead of a US Federal Reserve policy meeting expected to raise interest rates further, dealers said.

The Fed is widely expected to raise key rates by another 25 basis points to 5.25 percent at the end of a two-day meeting later tonight and the markets will be looking

SHARES/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE
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DBP to auction P11B in soured loans, foreclosed assets /B3
Simplified, more rational taxes on capital mart urged /B8

FIXED TERM FOR CHIEF

BIR wants 'independence'

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE said it would push for a bill that would give the revenue agency more independence from the national government, with its commissioner having a fixed six-year term.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the proposal would make the BIR much like the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, whose operations were relatively free from political intervention. A BSP governor, once appointed, stays on for six years.

"The idea is for the BIR to be more professional and less prone to political pressure," Buñag said in a briefing yesterday.

Buñag said the proposal was not intended to benefit himself. He noted that the proposal was envisioned to materialize within the medium term, even perhaps after his tenure at the BIR.

There had been proposals in the past to make the BIR assume a corporate entity and become a government-owned and -controlled corporation run by a board of directors. Old proposals were embodied in the bill seeking to transform the BIR into the National Authority for Revenue Administration (Nara), but the legislative measure did not get backing in Congress.

Buñag said the BIR's new proposal did not necessarily intend to create a board of directors for the revenue agency but only to give it a more independent and professional character.

The BIR chief said the new proposed bill would include a provision

BIR/ B3

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KPPI to raise up to P400M through sale of property

Funding for project in Global City

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL ESTATE FIRM KUOK PHILIPPINE PROPerties Inc. (KPPI) is aiming at raising P300 million to P400 million through the sale of two pieces of property this year.

KPPI vice chair Tomas C. Zita Jr. told reporters yesterday that KPPI was planning to raise fresh funds from the sale of its 1,348-square-meter lot at the Global City and a 107-hectare property in Tagaytay near the Palace in the Sky.

Zita said proceeds from the sale would likely be used for the development of a six-hectare property in Mactan, Cebu City, into a residential condominium or townhouses.

KPPI is also studying possible development projects for another 20-hectare property in Naic, Cavite, and a 400-hectare lot in Mabini, Batangas. It also holds development rights to a 10,800-square-meter property in Makati.

KPPI owns 35 percent of Caylabne Bay Resort in Cavite but it is considering selling it.

In a related development, KPPI affiliate Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. is setting aside P1 billion for its property development projects this year and in 2007.

KPPI holds about 2 million shares in EPHI.

The EPHI Group is undertaking a P3.5-billion high-rise residential project, called St. Francis Towers, near Shangri-La Mall along Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong. This project is set for completion by 2009.

This project consists of two towers. Each 60-story tower will have six high-speed passenger lifts and service elevators for residents; a multi-purpose room with videoke facilities, and a clubhouse with a gym, aerobics room, a games room with sports lounge, a spa and steam room, swimming pools, and an Internet center.

ROUND-UP

Top traded stock

PORT OPERATOR INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER Terminal Services Inc. was yesterday's top traded stock with a block of the company's shares worth P660 million sold.

A total of 48.9 million ICTSI shares, or 2 percent of the firm's outstanding stocks of 2 billion, were bought and sold yesterday at P13.50 per share by Wealth Securities.

ICTSI closed at P13.50 per share, up 1.9 percent from its previous close at P13.25. It accounted for 42 percent of yesterday's total turnover.

Details of the transaction could not be confirmed but sources said the shares might belong to a group of investors re-aligning its portfolio.

Consolidated net income rose 41 percent to P375 million in the first three months from P266 million in the same period in 2005. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Kraft told to post bond

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS has required Kraft Foods Inc. to post a bond equivalent to the difference between the 3 percent tariff it is paying for its premix juice importation and the 38 percent imposed on products whose sugar content exceeds 65 percent in dry weight.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said a memorandum had been sent to Kraft requiring the company to post the bond equivalent to the tariff differential of 35 percent. However, Customs has yet to receive a response from Kraft, Morales said in a statement.

Kraft filed a case before the Court of Tax Appeals contesting the 38-percent tax being imposed on the company for its premix juice imports.

The company is paying 3 percent duty under the common preferential tariff rate while other importers, including San Miguel Foods, are paying the obligatory tariff rate.

"It is our position that Kraft should post a bond as guarantee in case the court's decision would not be in its favor," Morales explained.

DOE seeks deal with Indonesia

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS WORKing on a government-to-government long-term coal supply deal with Indonesia to meet the coal requirements of National Power Corp.

"We're negotiating with Indonesia to have long-term contracts on coal supply, including that of Napocor. We'll just pursue a (memorandum of understanding) that the government signed with Indonesia in 2003," Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce said in an interview.

Talks are underway with Indonesia's top government officials, he said, through the Indonesian Embassy.

"We have to put up an agreement by December, either already signed or ready for signing," he said.

If a government-to-government agreement could not be achieved, he said another option would be for the DOE to strike deals with Indonesian national coal company PT Bukit Asam.

At present, however, PT Bukit Asam does not have excess supply it could sell to the Philippines, he said.

The country relies mainly on China for its coal requirements as local mines cannot produce enough coal to meet domestic demand.

Also, local coal is not suitable for use in almost all of the country's power plants.

Napocor's coal requirements come from a mix of long-term and spot market contracts.

Largesse network

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FINALLY, THE BIR IS REVIVING THE CASE of a big insurance group for non-payment of documentary stamp tax amounting to only P800 million.

OK, let's call a spade a dirty stinking shovel—it is really tax evasion!

The tax evasion case initially became public knowledge in 1998, during the time of the man named Band…Wrist Band. Nothing happened since then.

Lately, based on my info from the office of the commissioner, BIR chief Jose Mario Buñag ordered the "re-docketing" of the case.

It seems that somebody's well-paid network in the BIR was feeding some wrong info to the good commissioner, who is known in business for being "SUPER straight," to the effect that the P800-million case has been settled fully.

Just considering the interest of the unpaid tax alone, the government in the past eight years would have earned—or, better yet, SAVED—about P400 million easily.

That's how much the insurance group is denying the government. Or whoever that playboy is in the group wallowing in the BIR largesse!

* * *

TRANS MIDDLE East or TME, owner of some 8 percent interest in EPCIB, which is being claimed by other groups, has a long paper trail of bank loans that it incurred to pay for those shares plus, of course, the subsequent repayment of the loans.

That should more than prove TME's ownership of the EPCIB shares, all right.

But where does that put the claim of the other groups? Anyway, what is it again they say about "possession" being 99 percent of ownership? I mean, come on, on whom lies the burden of proof here?

It seems that the issue has something to do with the P150 million in cash dividends on those EPCIB shares.

Gratis takeover artist Tessie Sy—daughter of Henry Sy, founder of the SM group, which in turn wants to take over EPCIB by not spending another centavo more—is taking issue over the dividends going to TME.

Of course, the PCGG and the other groups agreed with her. All of them are saying that TME should not get the dividend.

Never mind that the courts had already ruled against the PCGG sequestration of the shares, deciding that it was illegal from the beginning.

And so who should get it—the PCGG? Well, from 1986 to 1992, the PCGG actually got P40 million in cash dividends on those shares.

Where is the money now? Considering interest income, it should be more than P500 million by now. Yet the PCGG cannot say where it all went. No accounting whatsoever!

* * *

LAST week, the DOJ started the preliminary hearing on the case filed by GSIS president Winston Garcia against former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo.

It was about Romulo's serving as an "independent director" of EPCIB, although he was disqualified to do so under the law.

Garcia alleged that Romulo violated the law in cahoots with four others in EPCIB, namely, Antonio Go, Anthony Conway, Peter Go Pailan, and Nilo Natividad.

Romulo also had high-paying positions in two other EPCIB companies. This, to Garcia, showed that Romulo was a "protégé" of the Go family.

In effect, "independent director" Romulo was beholden to the Gos. This, Garcia alleged, showed his actions as EPCIB…well, "independent director."

I thought that the investing public—not just the 1.5 million members of the GSIS—should root for Garcia in this case.

Publicly listed companies really just go around the rules when it comes to their "independent directors." Right, Jess?

To answer the charges, Romulo issued a press statement. He said the EPCIB nominating committee approved his "qualification."

Precisely, boss, the committee members are the "co-accused." You know—they were all part of an alleged conspiracy!

The funny part is that Romulo used press statements to answer a formal criminal complaint, the penalty for which is imprisonment. Whaaat—no lawyers this time?

* * *

EMPLOYEES of Maynilad Water, which is under receivership, are up in arms over the actuation of the receiver. The employees are claiming back wages, which the receiver (a woman) simply ignored.

At the same time, the receiver already recommended payment of foreign (again, FOREIGN) lawyers and unsecured creditors. To think, the receiver even reported to the court that the lawyers' fees and suppliers credits had yet to be verified. But she wants them paid for anyway?

Moreover, Maynilad has a P500-million sinking fund, designed specifically for Maynilad employees. In the rehab plan designed by the brilliant receiver, it is recommended that the P500 million be used to pay off bank creditors and the foreign partner, the Suez Group.

It is "not available for any other purpose." Really? Who said?

* * *

THIS IS the kind of joint-venture story that makes us hate multinationals, similar to the stories of La Suerte and the American cigarette firm Philip Morris, or Solid Group and the Japanese giant Sony.

For about 34 years, the pioneering all-Filipino company Alenaire did fantastically, exporting aircon units to China, Thailand, Hong Kong, Brunei, Malaysia and Guam.

But the poor Alenaire in 1998 entered into a joint venture with Japanese firm Daikin. The venture closed down after six years of continuous losses.

Alenaire accused Daikin of purposely running down to the ground the Japanese-managed joint venture, allegedly for Daikin to replace Alenaire as the dominant brand.

From 2000 to 2004, for instance, the joint venture placed 116 newspaper ads for Daikin. Guess what—for Alenaire only 13 ads!

Daikin also padded the costs of Alenaire production by treating, for example, expenses of the joint venture as purely Alenaire's. Result—Daikin became cheaper.

Thus, the owners of Alenaire pestered Daikin in Japan to assign a better executive here than the 33-year-old neophyte president of the joint venture, who only had a three-year experience in China as sales agent.

When all remedies failed, the Alenaire owners (Lagman family) went to court. Daikin never answered the point-by-point charges of Alenaire, dwelling mainly on legal technicalities such as court procedures. Thus, the courts (both RTC and CA) ruled in favor of Alenaire.

Meantime, Daikin already shut down the factory, laid off thousands of workers (with minimal separation pay), and settled with the creditors and suppliers.

Except of course Alenaire! Daikin has yet to settle the court-ordered compensation of its joint venture partners. After all, Alenaire is just a Filipino firm.

VoIP firms told to roll out in countryside

By Daxim L. Lucas

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULators plan to require providers of voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) services to make their facilities available in specific areas to be determined by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in exchange for operating licenses.

The plan mimics a scheme imposed in the 1990s by the NTC on mobile phone firms, which were required to install a certain number of fixed landlines in the so-called missionary areas, or those considered less profitable, in exchange for being granted permits to operate wireless networks.

VoIP is a technology that allows users to make phone calls using Internet facilities. Various estimates peg the service as being 90 percent cheaper than existing voice calls offered by traditional phone companies.

In an interview on Wednesday, NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis said the proposed rollout requirement would help develop the local VoIP industry while bringing down the cost of telecommunications for the average Filipino.

"Before, we asked them to roll out fixed lines as a condition [for wireless licenses]," he said. "Now, we're thinking of recommending to Malacañang that license holders should support the community e-centers."

Solis was referring to a government initiative that called for the setting up of Internet facilities in areas around the country to give Filipinos in rural areas access to the World Wide Web.

Community e-centers are part of the government's Information and Communications Technology "roadmap" for the development of the industry.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 28, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	98,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	43,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	45.5	46	1,262,900
China Banking Corp.	860	860	855	855	280
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	1,250,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	71.5	70.5	71.5	175,700
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	6,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	31	540,800
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	2,000
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	5,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	42	42	42	42	86,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	42.5	43	42.5	43	20,600
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2055	2055	2055	2055	1,560
Ivantage Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	420,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	41	41.5	41	41.5	105,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	326,800
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	32,200
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	21	20.5	21	171,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7	7.1	7	7.1	566,000
Petron Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.5	2,260,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	507,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	231,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	85,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	52,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	72.5	71.5	72.5	55,400
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.25	17.5	1,243,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,240,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.28	1.34	1.28	1.34	2,256,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.3	4.3	337,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	100,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	28,000,000
Ayala Corp.	337.5	342.5	330	340	81,840
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	527,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.72	1.84	1.72	1.8	2,762,000
APC Group Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	45,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	0.99	860,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	499,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	69,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	112,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.52	60,000
SM Investments Corp.	212	212	209	209	53,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11	6,489,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	260,000
Belle Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	790,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	2,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	800,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	203,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	65,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	7,160,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.2	13,789,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.0525	0.08	0.0525	0.08	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	15,326,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	3,490,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	150,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	45,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.8	78,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	210,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	85,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	4,217,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,400,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	19,900
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	245,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.22	4,255,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	900	900	900	12,580
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	1,699,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1700	1735	1700	1720	270,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	710,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.08	2.1	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	2,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	1,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.031	202,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	22,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	49,203,200
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.65	1,375,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	120,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	170,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.9	1.9	310,000
Paxys Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	57,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	35,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.6	2,054,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,740,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	21,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	128,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.85	2,485,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.85	2,935,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28.5	28	28	113,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	540,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	840,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	127,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	261,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	17	17.25	16.75	16.75	252,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT REC					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	40,200

CURRENCIES

June 28, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.794849	1.000000	53.4230
Japan	Yen	0.006837	0.008602	0.4595
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448375	1.822200	97.3474
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102349	0.128765	6.8790
Switzerland	Franc	0.639512	0.804570	42.9825
Canada	Dollar	0.707665	0.890313	47.5632
Singapore	Dollar	0.498370	0.626999	33.4962
Australia	Dollar	0.583119	0.733622	39.1923
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.108410	2.652590	141.7093
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211931	0.266631	14.2442
Brunei	Dollar	0.496812	0.625039	33.3915
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000108	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020691	0.026031	1.3907
UAE	Dirham	0.216421	0.272279	14.5460
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.258100	67.2115
Argentina	Peso	0.257817	0.324359	17.3282
Brazil	Real	0.356434	0.448430	23.9565
Denmark	Kroner	0.134109	0.168722	9.0136
India	Rupee	0.017201	0.021640	1.1561
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215875	0.271592	14.5093
Mexico	New Peso	0.069483	0.087416	4.6700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481756	0.606097	32.3795
Norway	Kroner	0.126120	0.158672	8.4767
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013203	0.016611	0.8874
South Africa	Rand	0.109589	0.137874	7.3656
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001043	0.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.107976	0.135844	7.2572
Syria	Pound	0.015312	0.019264	1.0291
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024345	0.030629	1.6363

Shares close lower

From page B1

closely at the accompanying statement for clues on whether more are on the way.

The composite index was down 15.03 points at 2,066.06, extending losses to a third day, after trading between 2,049.95 and 2,081.09. Volume was 757.3 million shares worth P1.59 billion.

The all-share index fell 7.94 points to 1,313.67.

Losers led gainers 44 to 16, with 55 stocks unchanged.

"All eyes are on the Fed meeting—how much the rate hike is and its forward-looking statement," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

There could be some window-dressing by fund managers at the end of the month but Macapagal said any gains may be short-lived amid concerns rising interest rates may hurt the global economy.

"There are a few buyers but they are not buying aggressively," he said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is scheduled to hold its own policy meeting today but the majority view is that it will remain on hold, at least in the short-term.

Briskly traded PLDT fell P25 to P1,720 while Bank of the Philippine Islands lost a peso to P46.

Port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc., the most actively traded stock, rose 25 centavos to P13.50 following a cross transaction. *AFP*

iBank's Sy to join Metrobank as director

RAMON SY

BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines and International Exchange Bank president Ramon Sy is set to join the 12-member board of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

Sy was sidelined when the controlling stakeholders of iBank, which he co-founded, sold out to the Aboitiz group's Union Bank of the Philippines.

As of press time yesterday, Metrobank was set to hold a board meeting and part of the agenda was to appoint Sy. It was not known who among the incumbent board members would give way to Sy.

Under the leadership of its new president, Arthur Ty, Metrobank has charted a series of changes, including beefing-up its senior management corps, reviewing its business processes, revitalizing sales capabilities, aligning business units and adopting new technology, all aimed at setting the groundwork required to keep its leading position in the local banking system.

Union Bank bought nearly 100 percent of iBank for about P13.4 billion, a deal that would lead to a fresh merger creating the country's ninth biggest bank and edging out the Yuchengcos' Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Among iBank's shareholders which sold out were JTKC Equities Inc. (25.82 percent); iVantage Corp. (17.22 percent); Razon Industries Inc. (16.48 percent); Greenhills Properties Inc. (9.34 percent), and Philrealty Corp. (8.61 percent). Sy owned 3.4 percent of the bank.

Metrobank itself is back on an expansion mode, beefing up its core capital base and hunting for potential acquisitions for the first time since 2000. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Peso falters . . .

From page B1

current 5 percent.

Big US-based financial giants like Citibank and American Express Bank, however, expected the Fed funds rate to peak at only 5.25 percent this year.

Ayes said the peso would likely fall to 53.80, at the worst, but given positive fundamentals supporting the currency, a big rebound would be likely soon.

He said the peso was being weighed down mostly by external factors but once the uncertainties clear up, a recovery was inevitable as the market would again focus on positive developments on the local economic front.

Meanwhile, Japan's R&I said that with the stability in the Arroyo administration restored, the country would be able to stay on the path to economic reform.

"Reductions in the fiscal deficit and foreign debt are keeping the effects of foreign interest rate (increases) to a minimum. Thanks to solid remittances from expatriate workers, stable economic growth can be expected," R&I said.

If the reduction in the fiscal deficit continued, R&I said the burden of interest payment would be brought under control in the medium term and resistance to interest rate risk would increase.

"However, expenditure for improvement in domestic infrastructure, an area where Malaysia and Thailand far surpass the Philippines, as well as expenditure for increasing employment opportunities are necessary," the Japanese rating firm said.

Supported by a population proficient in English and an established reputation in the management of special economic areas, R&I said the Philippines has a relatively sound production base in the processing and assembly of semiconductors and electronic parts.

"There are also expectations that a significant increase in business process outsourcing will occur in the future. R&I will pay attention to whether the Philippines can provide an attractive investment environment and further contribute to businesses, including these sectors," R&I said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Nestor Espenilla welcomed R&I's action.

"This is the fourth credit-rating outlook improvement the Philippines has secured in 2006. Standard and Poors, Fitch and Japan Credit Rating Agency also did similar outlook upgrades to stable earlier this year. These were all acknowledgements of the Philippines' progress in implementing fiscal reforms and the country's improved macroeconomic fundamentals."

DBP to auction P11B in bad loans, foreclosed assets

Seeks fiscal incentives under revived SPV law

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED DEVELOPment Bank of the Philippines will auction P11 billion worth of nonperforming assets by Aug. 30, taking advantage of the newly revived Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

The bank, which has tapped Ernst & Young as financial adviser for this activity, plans to avail itself of fiscal incentives under the SPV Law, which either waives or reduces some of the taxes usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets.

In an interview yesterday, DBP president Reynaldo David said that of the assets to be put on the block, about P8 billion would consist of nonperforming loans while the rest comprised foreclosed property assets.

Being a government-owned entity, David said the bank could not engage in a negotiated sale and would have to dispose of the assets through a public bidding.

If successful, the proposed sale would wipe out the bank's bad loans and reduce its idle property assets to below 2 percent of total assets, he said.

"If we're able to dispose, that frees a lot of risk weights for capital purposes. It will spur us to more lending and reduce the provisioning we set aside every month. It's going to be a healthy balance," David said.

Interested bidders are required to register and will be given about eight weeks prior to bidding date to conduct their due-diligence audit on the assets, said another source privy to the bidding.

"We're anticipating a good number of interested parties," the source said, noting that the P11-billion block would likely be bought by a single investor.

Given the DBP's developmental lending thrust, some of its idle property assets are located outside Metro Manila. The bank's portfolio for developmental projects reflects its increasing involvement in four priority thrusts—infrastructure and logistics, micro and small and medium enterprise development, environmental management and social services.

Remaining assets that will not be sold through this bulk sale will be unloaded on a retail basis, the source added.

Meanwhile, David said DBP had put on hold its planned $130-million perpetual bond offer given the continuing regional shakeout on emerging market assets.

In the first four months of the year, he announced that DBP posted a net profit of P1.62 billion or almost double the P850 million in the same period last year. During the same period, DBP's assets went up by 29.9 percent to P224.35 billion while net worth rose by 12.3 percent to P22.83 billion from a year ago.

BIR wants 'independence'

From page B1

that would also upgrade the salaries of employees and officials of the revenue agency. This is intended to encourage revenue personnel to put more effort in shoring up the BIR's tax collection, which is the national government's main revenue source.

Asked by how much the BIR wanted salaries of its employees increased, Buñag said: "We are trying to see the best deal that government officials get now."

BIR officials also said earlier there was a need to make the revenue agency's compensation package more attractive for talented young professionals. Buñag said there was a need to increase the BIR's workforce, given the daunting task of increasing tax collection this year by about 25 percent from last year's.

The BIR is given the target of collecting P675.4 billion in taxes this year to help the national government meet the goal of reducing the budget deficit to only P125 billion. Last year, the deficit stood at P146.8 billion.

Buñag said there was still a chance the BIR would meet its full-year target despite shortfalls in its previous monthly targets. "You (media) should not be obsessed with monthly targets," he said, noting there had been a case in the past when the BIR recorded a shortfall in its eight-month target, but was still able to achieve its full-year goal.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which reports the national government's monthly fiscal performance, earlier announced that the BIR collected P268 billion in taxes in the first five months of the year. The figure was P4.2 billion short of the P272.2-billion target for the January-to-May period.

BIR officials attributed the shortfall partly to the sudden increase in tax credit claims by corporate taxpayers.

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	Supply and delivery of 223,040 rounds Training Ammunition, Cal. 5.56 mm, per BSP standard specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 5,576,000.00
Delivery Period	To be delivered on staggered basis within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, as follows: Quantity 1st batch 74.346) 2nd batch 74.346) 3rd batch 74.348) 1st batch to be delivered within sixty (60) cal. days upon receipt of Purchase Order (P.O.). Permit to Purchase Ammunition (PPA) from the Firearms and Explosive Division, Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) must be secured within five (5) calendar days after receipt of P.O. Subsequent deliveries shall be effected within every thirty (30) calendar days thereafter.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years within an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 June - 13 July 2006, up to 2:00 P.M. only
2. Pre-Bid Conference	14 July 2006, 2:00 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	1 August 2006, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,800.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - June 29 2006)

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This scalable, high-performance Linux operating system enables you to support workgroup productivity by deploying a wide range of innovative open source applications on low-cost, commodity hardware.

Novell GroupWise
This secure and reliable collaboration suite includes functionality for e-mail, calendar, contacts, tasks, reminders, instant messaging and document management.

Novell ZENworks Suite
ZENworks Suite automates and enforces business and IT management processes across the lifecycle of desktops, laptops, servers and handhelds to control costs, ensure security and compliance, optimize the value of IT assets across diverse server and client platforms.

OpenOffice.org for Windows
OpenOffice.org is a suite of office-productivity applications and provides a word processor, presentation and spreadsheet applications, an HTML editor and a drawing tool. It offers extensive file-format compatibility with Microsoft Office, allowing users to better share files between platforms.

Novell Linux Desktop
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Accent Micro Technologies Inc.
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Contact Person. Dennis Sy
Email: dennis.sy@amti.com.ph

Dataworld Computer Center (Region X)
Phone Number (88) 8575484, (8822) 725484
Contact Person Rhowena Banuag
Email. whena@dataworld.com.ph,

Infonet Solutions, Inc. (Cebu)
Phone Number. +63-32-2549851
Contact Person: Doris Lim-Choon
Email. doris@e-infonet.com

Microbase Incorporated
Phone 813-7603 / 759-3712
Contact Person: Ma. Goretti Abija (Bong)
Email: bong@microbase.com.ph

Sagesoft Solutions Incorporated
Phone Number 705-1421 to 24
Contact Person Teresita Tablos
Email: teresitat@touchgroup.net

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : June 12, 2006
Loan No.: CALYON
Contract No.: Sp06.NPTBP.Vt-0073

1. The ***National Power Corporation (NPC)*** has received a loan from the ***Buyer's Credit Facility arranged by CALYON through a Master Credit Arrangement*** for ***Northern Panay Project*** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Survey, Design, Supply of Materials/Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Northern Panay 138/69kV Transmission Backbone Project.***

   Bidders if not a manufacturer shall purchase the equipment and materials from eligible source countries listed in the Calyon's Buyer's Credit Facility (United States, Austria, Belgium, England, Denmark, South Korea, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) and all expenditures for the plant and equipment mader under the Contract will be limited to such plant and equipment.
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*** administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Survey, Design, Supply of Materials/Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Northern Panay 138/69kV Transmission Backbone Project.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department,*** *Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting June 14, 2006 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00).***
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   One Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Seven US Dollars (US$176,207.00)

   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.

   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on July 25, 2006.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on August 12, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **450 calendar days.**
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reaons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 15, 22 & 29, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282 / 5281

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID / RE-BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
9,000 bags of Silica Flour under FGK 60501	*PHP 3,343,000.00*
Various High Temperature Mud Additives under FGK 60502	*PHP 2,229,000.00*
under FGK 60503	*PHP 5,307,000.00*
Various Sizes of Carbon Steel Pipes under GE 513615/GJ 614501/GT 417834/GT 517331/GT 517441	*PHP 2,073,500.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the above address based on the following schedules:

PR No.	Date of Issue	Cost per Document	Contact Person
FGK 60501	June 28, 2006	PHP 400.00	Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado Loc. 5282
FGK 60502/ FGK 60503	June 28, 2006	PHP 400.00	Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado Loc. 5282
GE 513615 / GJ 614501 / GT 417834 / GT 517331 / GT 517441	June 23, 2006	PHP 200.00	Mr. Edgar Allan T. Sademas Loc. 5281

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall also be held on July 6, 2006 for all the requisitions, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. **(Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of July 20, 2006 for FGK 60501 and FGK 60502 / FGK 60503 and July 21, 2006 for GE 513615 / GJ 614501 / GT 417834 / GT 517331 / GT 517441.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--June 29 & July 6, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR LUZON
3rd Floor, Ombudsman Bldg.
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

DRIVER I, Item No. OMBA-DRV1-2-2002; SG-3; Education: Elementary School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Driver License (MC11, s.96-Cat. II)

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address with the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 49.05:

1. A letter stating the position applied for;
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form 212);
3. "1x1" picture (colored);
4. CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5. Transcript of Records/ Diploma;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Training Attended;
7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the position assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites specialty works contractors to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Installation of Elevators & Escalators for the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC)
Location : North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Elevators & Escalators
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 13,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess valid licenses / permits / certifications applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for the last two years, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 29, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 29, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 3 & 4, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 17, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Technical Plans, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference only to bidders declared to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 29, 2005)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites specialty works contractors to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Air Conditioning System for the Cebu International Convention Center
Location : North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City
Brief Description : Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Chillers & FCUs
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 35,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess valid licenses / permits / certifications applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for the last two years, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 29, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 29, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 3 & 4, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 17, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Technical Plans, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference only to bidders declared to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE NEWLY (A) ACQUIRED AND INSTALLED 15MVA POWER TRANSFORMER AT THE PALAMIS SUBSTATION, PALAMIS, ALAMINOS CITY (B) CONSTRUCTED 12KM. 69KV SUBTRANSMISSION LINE FROM BANI SUBSTATION TO TARA SUBSTATION IN TARA, BOLINAO AND (C) TRANSFERRED 10MVA POWER TRANSFORMER FROM PALAMIS SUBSTATION TO TARA SUBSTATION WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2006-030 MC

PANGASINAN I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PANELCO I),
Applicant.

x- x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PANELCO I) on February 16, 2006 of an application for authority to operate and maintain the newly (a) Acquired and installed 15MVA Power Transformer at the Palamis Substation, Palamis, Alaminos City (b) Constructed 12KM. 69KV Sub-transmission line from Bani Substation to Tara Substation in Tara, Bolinao and (c) Transferred 10MVA Power Transformer from Palamis Substation to Tara Substation, with a total project net of **Forty One Million Four Hundred Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Four Pesos (PhP 41,417,754.00)** with prayer for provisional authority

The Commission has set the application for hearing on July 6, 2006 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2 00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Origas Center, Pasig City

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.,** Chairman, and the Honorables **JESUS N. ALCORDO,** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN** Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 15th day of May 2006, at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA TERESA A. RAMIREZ-CASTAÑEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI – June 29, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Repair / Improvement of Capitol Building
Location : Capitol Compound, Cebu City
Brief Description : Repair and Improvement works for the Capitol Main Building
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,957,874.45
Contract Duration : 100 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	June 23 – 30, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 30, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 30, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 6, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 07, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 12, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 24, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 253-3105.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications, only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 29, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites specialty works contractors to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Installation of Standby Generator Set for the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC)
Location : North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Emergency Back up Power System for the CICC
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 19,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess valid licenses / permits / certifications applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC for the last two years, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

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2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	June 23 – 29, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 29, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 3 & 4, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 5, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 17, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Technical Plans, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference only to bidders declared to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. HABIN**
Chairman

(PDI – June 23 & 29, 2006)

Announcement

In keeping with Inter.net's commitments to continually evolve our products and to refocus our resources, we are announcing that we will stop releasing Inter.net and other Inter.net powered prepaid cards effective July 1, 2006 in **Metro Manila** only. Resellers as well as end users are advised that said prepaid cards will be valid for use up to **June 30, 2007.**

Interdotnet Phils., Inc.

More Classified Ads:
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources and Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative on Page A19;
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on Page B3

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Our Dearly Beloved

SOLEDAD LIRIO DOLOR

Widow of the late Leon Dolor

Pope John Paul II Awardee
Order of the Sacred Cross, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 26, 2006 at the age of 93.

Her bereaved children **Fe Cecilia**, **Danilo** and **Erlinda**; grandchildren **Ma. Soledad** (**Tanini**) and **Larry de Leon, M.D.**; great grandchildren **Gian Carlo**, **Kevin Anthony**, **Alvin Benjamin** and **Leonard Frederick**, brother **Deogracias**; sister-in-law **Flora Atienza vda. de Lirio**, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Rd., Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, June 30, 2006 at the Family Mausoleum, Plaza of Peace, Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the ***Pondo ng Pinoy***
and for the Construction of ***Nuestra Señora de Soledad Parish Church,***
Daraza, Tanauan, Batangas
will be appreciated.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff

of

COUNTRY BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION
COUNTRY BANKERS INSURANCE CORPORATION

announce with deep sorrow
the demise of their beloved

STOCKHOLDER and DIRECTOR

SOLEDAD LIRIO DOLOR

who joined her Creator on June 26, 2006.

In Loving Memory
4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Don Manuel Cancio

(November 23, 1910 - June 29, 2002)

On the occasion of the 4th Death Anniversary of the late Don Manuel Cancio, his family and friends will offer masses at the following parishes today, June 29, 2006:

MASS SCHEDULE

CHURCH	TIME
Chapel of Saints Pio and Philomena *Goodwill Corporate Center Building* *393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue* *Makati City*	12:00 nn 6:00 pm
Santuario de San Antonio *Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 am
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia corner Kalayaan Avenue* *Bel-Air II, Makati City*	6:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church *National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary* *Quezon Avenue corner Sto. Domingo Street* *Quezon City*	6:00 am
Sta. Teresita Parish *43 Kanlaon Street, Sta. Mesa Heights* *Quezon City*	6:00 am
Don Bosco Parish *Arnaiz Street, Makati City, Metro Manila*	6:30 am
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *M.H. del Pilar corner A. Flores* *Ermita, Manila*	6:30 am

THE GOODWILL BOOKSTORE FAMILY, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

NIEVES JOVEN-BUNUAN

of Bacolor, Pampanga

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 26, 2006 at the age of 98.

She is survived by her nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives who request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Magallanes Chapels, South Superhighway, Makati City.

Pacita Balagot Osorio

Peacefully joined her Creator and her husband,
Atty. Francisco L. Osorio
on June 25, 2006.

Her sisters, brother and in-laws: **Luz** and **Salvador** (†) **Ramos**, **Lita** (†) and **Renato Sison**, **Edita Balagot**, **Angela** and **Mariano Aguilar Jr.**, and **Oscar** and **Lourdes Suba Balagot**, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Lourdes Church, Kanlaon Street corner Amoranto, Quezon City.

Interment will be tomorrow, June 30, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ESTELITA DE JESUS-CORAL

Peacefully joined her Creator
on June 24, 2006 at the age of 56.

Her loving husband **Felix**; children **Perly & Gerald**, **Precilla & Jesus**, **Alexander & Analyn**; **Richard & Felix, Jr.**, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 23-D Kings Point Subd., Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 2, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at Forest Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

> **"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."**
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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The Board of Directors
Senior Management
Officers and Staff

of

Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank)

express their deepest condolences to the family of its

former Chairman and President

SOLEDAD LIRIO DOLOR

February 6, 1913 – June 26, 2006

Pope John Paul II Awardee
Order of the Sacred Cross, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen,
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Rd.,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, June 30, 2006
at the Family Mausoleum, Plaza of Peace,
Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Funeral Mass
at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church.

*Please omit flowers. Donations to the **Pondo ng Pinoy***
*and for the construction of **Nuestra Señora de Soledad Parish Church***
Daraza, Tanauan, Batangas will be appreciated.

BUSINESS

Simplified, more rational taxes on capital mart urged

CMDC submits program to develop market to DOF

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT council is pushing for the simplification of taxes imposed on the financial sector to put more life into the lethargic market.

The rationalization of taxes was one of the major provisions of the proposed program to develop the country's capital market, which the CMDC submitted to the Department of Finance.

The CMDC is composed of representatives from the equities markets and banking and insurance sectors.

The group said taxation of the financial sector should be simple to administer, will not adversely impact business operations and is fair to all players.

"Neutrality mandates that the tax system, in raising revenues, must exert minimal impact on the business or spending decisions of taxpayers," the group said.

The CMDC said that there were several taxes on the sector that discourage investors.

On the banking industry, the CMDC noted that the documentary stamp tax on electronic transactions, such as those related to remittances sent by overseas Filipino workers, discourages the use of modern technology.

The CMDC also said that the creditable withholding tax on financial services was a burden to clients.

With regard the insurance sector, the CMDC supported the call of insurance firms to amend the current manner by which the documentary stamp tax on premiums was collected.

The CMDC said that instead of collecting the DST every time a premium is paid, the tax should be collected upon payment of the first premium.

The non-life insurance sector also opposed the imposition of value-added tax on earnings from reinsurance services.

Also, non-life insurance firms wanted the base of the DST shifted from gross premiums to net premiums to make it competitive with counterparts in other countries.

Taking the side of investment houses, the CMDC said that to make taxation for the financial sector equitable, investment firms and banks should be covered by the same tax.

The CMDC noted that at present, long-term investments in bank products were exempted from the 20-percent final withholding tax but those placed in other financial institutions were taxed.

To make taxation equitable, the government should either lift the exemption of banks or extend the exemption to non-bank financial institutions.

"Financial sector taxation is seen as aiming to promote the development of the capital market by mobilizing savings, to promote the development and trading of financial instruments, and to ensure that the financial sector bears an equitable share in the total tax burden," the CMDC said.

The CMDC also said that the equities market was heavily taxed.

"For the securities dealer and brokers sector, a key concern is to address the high transaction cost in the stock exchange, which to a large extent can be attributed to the stock transaction tax, the VAT on stock-brokering services and the impending expiration of the exemption of stock exchange from the DST," the CMDC said.

The DOF, a policy maker on tax-related matters, said it agreed that effort was needed to help develop the country's capital market. DOF officials, however, have not yet committed to any of the proposals of the CMDC, saying that the need to develop the capital markets should be balanced with the need to improve the government's fiscal standing.

Toward a globalized workforce

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

DUE TO GLOBALIZATION AND RAPID ADvances in technology, our workforce must possess the right set of skills and knowledge to get ahead.

The traditional worker needs just the basic skills—reading, writing and arithmetic. The "global" worker, on the other hand, must have other attributes, such as creativity and adaptability as well as decision making and interactive skills, to get the good jobs.

Unfortunately, most graduates of technical vocational schools and new entrants to the labor market do not have these necessary skills, thus, they have been left out in the race for good jobs.

Take the contact center industry as an example. Work opportunities abound, but the industry is finding it increasingly difficult to hire qualified workers.

In the recent Cyberservices Workforce Forecast (Based on Industry Reports for 2004-2005 sourced from CICT, BOI, BPAP and member organizations), it was estimated that the industry would need 179,206 call center agents this year, 259,800 in 2007 and 506,500 in 2010.

The medical transcription industry, on the other hand, is expected to need 13,800 employees this year and 24,800 in 2007, an increase of 80 percent.

The numbers present a challenge to us in Mindanao.

It is important that we aggressively improve our workforce or else find ourselves lagging in the fast developing ICT sector.

Today, there are only three call centers in Mindanao—one in Cagayan de Oro and two in Davao City.

The Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) sector, however, performed well in terms of industry absorption.

This was reflected in the Impact Assessment on the TVET Graduates (CY 1999), which said the average employment rate of Mindanao TVET graduates was 61 percent.

But with the high rate of obsolescence these days, we still need to improve on our new graduates' chances of landing a job by improving the quality of education and providing them with skills demanded by today's industries.

In the face of new skills requirements and expectations from our workforce, TVET institutions that train these workers have to adapt as well. The pressing need for workers with higher level skills demands new approaches and strategies in training and educating workers to enable them to stay competitive and advance in their careers.

This will be the focus of the discussions during the 2006 Mindanao TVET HRSD (Human Resources and Skills Development) Conference and Exhibits. The Mindanao framework for education and job training that meets the needs of today's new and growing industries will be the main point of discussion in the largest gathering of TVET school owners ,administrators and business and labor groups.

On July 4 - 6, 2006, some 300 participants coming from the TVET sector, composed of government and private representatives, industry, academe, labor, will gather at the Villa Paraisao Apartelle, Mambajao, Camiguin to exchange ideas and information on policies, emerging trends, career opportunities, and critical issues affecting TVET in Mindanao.

The 2006 Mindanao TVET HRSD Conference and Exhibits will provide an overview of the labor market and latest skills trends, determine regional constraints with regards to jobs generation and capability for small enterprise development, identify interventions to provide information and assistance in the areas of job search and marketing, promote the establishment of links between business and other agencies to assist schemes aimed at implementing small scale community enterprise projects and jobs creation.

Aside from the conference, other highlights of the event are the: Camiguin Trade Exhibit - a showcase of products and services that the province is known for; Jobs Fair - a venue to provide employment facilitation assistance and opportunities to the reach of the unemployed, this is open to all fresh graduates, skilled and professional workers seeking advancement; Entrepreneurs' Fair - a venue for prospective entrepreneurs to find business opportunities particularly franchises.

Our government host is the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Region X Reg. Dir. Silvano Maranga and Gov. Romualdo of Camiguin .The private sector host is the Northern Mindanao Techvoc Schools Association led by Dr. Irene Antonio of Valencia College in Bukidnon . Technical support to the event is being provided by TESDA XI Reg. Dir. Gaspar Gayona.

The Mindanao TVET Association will focus its efforts this year on developing a "multi skilled" workforce that will do well in a globalized economy.

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao ; Chair, Mindanaworld Foundation Inc; ConCom and Charter Change Advocacy Commission Member ; Chair of the Mindanao TVET' ; Mindanao Rep , Export Development Council ; Chair , Joji Ilagan Foundation ; Former Chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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June 29 - July 2, 2006
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SNEAK peek into The Singapore Foodfest / C2

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
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WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Where fish is good company

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

> Where to order the yummiest sweets, where to buy rye flour, and how to make 'ensaymada,' if you must

TODAY'S COLUMN IS ALL ABOUT MY favorite sweets.

There are not a lot of places where one finds good salad, excellent fish and chips, yummy coffee, great dessert, with a decent wine list to boot, all in one roof.

Fish & Co. has become my place of comfort in the past months. I love their Fish and Chips and their Smoked Salmon Salad. But who would ever think that a fish place would serve dessert as delectable as the Chocolate Eruption, their sinful chocolate cake imported from Texas. It's a chocolate cake filled with rich chocolate cream studded with nuts, chocolate chips and turtle cheesecake cubes with chocolate curls, sliced almonds and golden caramel that erupts from the center! Too sinfully delicious and, with their cup of coffee, a treat indeed!

Why I like Fish & Co. is simple. It's one place in the mall that offers consistently good food, just as I expect it, churned out exactly the same way, day after day, which is just about how often I go there to indulge!

More of my favorite things

A good friend gave me Maja Pandan (Pandan Maja Blanca) to try. This too is yummy. It's like a giant Thai Thako! Call Rose Lopez at 8107533.

Now on to *bibingkang malagkit*. If you haven't tried La Tasca's, you better go and order. I have forgotten how good it was up until recently and it brought back so many fond memories and calories! This is delicious! Call 8965543.

Cheesecake—if you have a sweet tooth, Pixie Sevilla Santos' Dulce de Leche Cheesecake is a must try! Call 7232776.

I am an avid reader of your PDI column and am an American missionary on a local budget living in Metro Manila. I have finally assembled the ingredients necessary to make real whole-wheat bread for personal consumption. However, I am lacking a proper oven. I am also looking for a source of locally grown raw sunflower seeds and rye flour.

JAMES TOMELL

Hope this helps and may your dream of baking your own whole-wheat bread come true!

For ovens, try to call the following numbers for the best deal possible. These are the industrial types and they manufacture according to your specifications: Gomeco at 6876791 (look for Mar Mission), Bakerex at 6374815 to 16, and Middleby at 5208170. Chef Ernie Babaran recommend Gomeco's deck oven for bread, while for pastry, it's the Bakerex three-layer oven.

If you want a good household oven, I use SMEG and I love it! Call Jefferson at 0917-8588020.

As for rye and sunflower seeds, unfortunately, neither I nor my colleagues know of local growers. We don't really use them in our cuisine. Both, though, can be bought at Santis Deli. For rye flour, try Healthy Options at the Shangri-La, Sweet Craft (tel. 5321595) or Chocolate Lovers in Cubao. For sunflower seeds, try Sweet Craft, Unimart, Cost U Less or S&R Price.

I read your column every week. I wonder if you could share with me and others who like to try to bake a recipe of *ensaymada* special.

EMY RIVERA

See, I would rather call Ms Cunanan (for consistently nice, rich, light *ensaymada*, tel. 6310798) than make my own. Or if you want the old-fashioned kind, *ensaymada* Capampangan, call Tita Pilar's at 3732789 to 90. Also, I was told that Mark Medina makes by order and sells them at the Salcedo market, the big old-fashioned ones. Have not tried them but I heard they are quite good. Call 8965523.

This recipe is my Lola's and is not bad at all. Tried it a couple of times and it worked! Remember, when it comes to *ensaymada* and everything else in life, patience and practice make perfect!

CHOCOLATE Eruption, imported by Fish & Co. from Texas

Ensaymada Dough

3 tbsp active dry yeast
1 tbsp sugar
½ c warm water, 110° F

In a bowl mix yeast and sugar. Add water. Let rest 15 minutes until bubbly.

Make sure mixture is bubbly. If it's not bubbly, yeast must be old or your water, too hot. In such case, throw away or else you will waste the rest of your ingredients.

1½ c warm Alpine evaporated milk, 110° F
½ c sugar
10 egg yolks, slightly beaten
1 tsp salt
½ c Anchor softened butter, room temperature
10-12 c flour

After 15 minutes, combine 1½ cups warm milk, ¾ cup warm water, ½ cup sugar, 10 egg yolks, salt and ½ cup softened butter.

Add 8 cups flour, one cup at a time, mixing lightly.

Knead the rest of the flour into dough.

Brush metal bowl with butter. Put dough and brush dough top with butter.

Cover with cling wrap and let rise for two hours, until double in size.

Punch dough bowl and divide into 24 balls.

Grease working table and rolling pin, roll dough thinly. Brush with melted butter, sprinkle with sugar and add grated cheese of choice, Queso de Bola if you wish.

Roll and coil. Place in greased molds. Let rise again until double in bulk.

Bake at 350° F for 20 minutes until done. Brush with butter, sprinkle with sugar and add grated cheese.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

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OTHER ONE DAY SPECIAL

Japanese Cooking: July 1 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso soup, Mixed Tempura, Kamameshi, Assorted Sushi & Sashimi and Sukiyaki by Japanese teacher. Free cookbook. P1,000.

Italian Sampler: July 15 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lasagna, Cannelloni, Ravioli, Carbonara, Oglio Olio, Puttanesca & Homemade Fresh Pasta. P850.

Meringue Delights: July 22 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sansrival, Sylvannas, Brazo de Mercedes, Pineapple Meringue Cake, Lemon Meringue Pie. Bonus: Chocolate Custard Cake. P800.

Snacks Meals: July 29 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Flaky Empanada, Garlic Muffins, Chicken Tarts, Meat Buns & Stuffed Pizza. P700.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrollment, pre-registration required)

Basic Culinary: July 4-7/18-21 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proper hygiene, sanitation & safety; nutrition & nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs & spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing & boning poultry, filleting fish & meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry & meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000.

Fundamentals of Bakery Production: July 11-14/25-28 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Baking techniques applicable to the use of various ready mixes, yeast breads, quick breads, pies, cookies & cakes. P4,000 with Free Baking Cookbook.

Advanced Cooking: July 11-14/25-28 (T-F) 2-6 p.m. Setting up a system for food safety (HACCP). The art of seasoning and flavoring using herbs and spices, grand sauces & flavors, menu forms & functions, recipe formulation / menu development (dry & frozen food storage), purchasing & portion procedures, standard serving portions, average % cost for trimmings & cooking of vegetables, fruit shellfish & meat; costing, metric conversion factors, demonstration of the preparation of herbs based dressing, marinade, wet & dry rub. Workshop on the preparation of sauces, international menu from entree to desserts. P5,000.

Waitering and Bartending: July 15, 22 & 29 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Waitering Etiquette, Table Set-up, bussing out, napkin folding & skirting; Classifications of Wine & Spirits, Types of glasses, mixing and serving of drinks, Bonus: Special Pulutan recipes. Free Snacks. P3,000.

Free Baking Demo: July 28 (Friday) 4-5 p.m. Baking Business Product application with Maya Mixes, Blackforest, Carrot Cake, Butterscotch Cookies and Hotdog on Stick. Includes lecture on Sales & Profit Analysis. Pre-registration required. (Present 3 empty packages of any Maya Hotcake or Cake Mixes)

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

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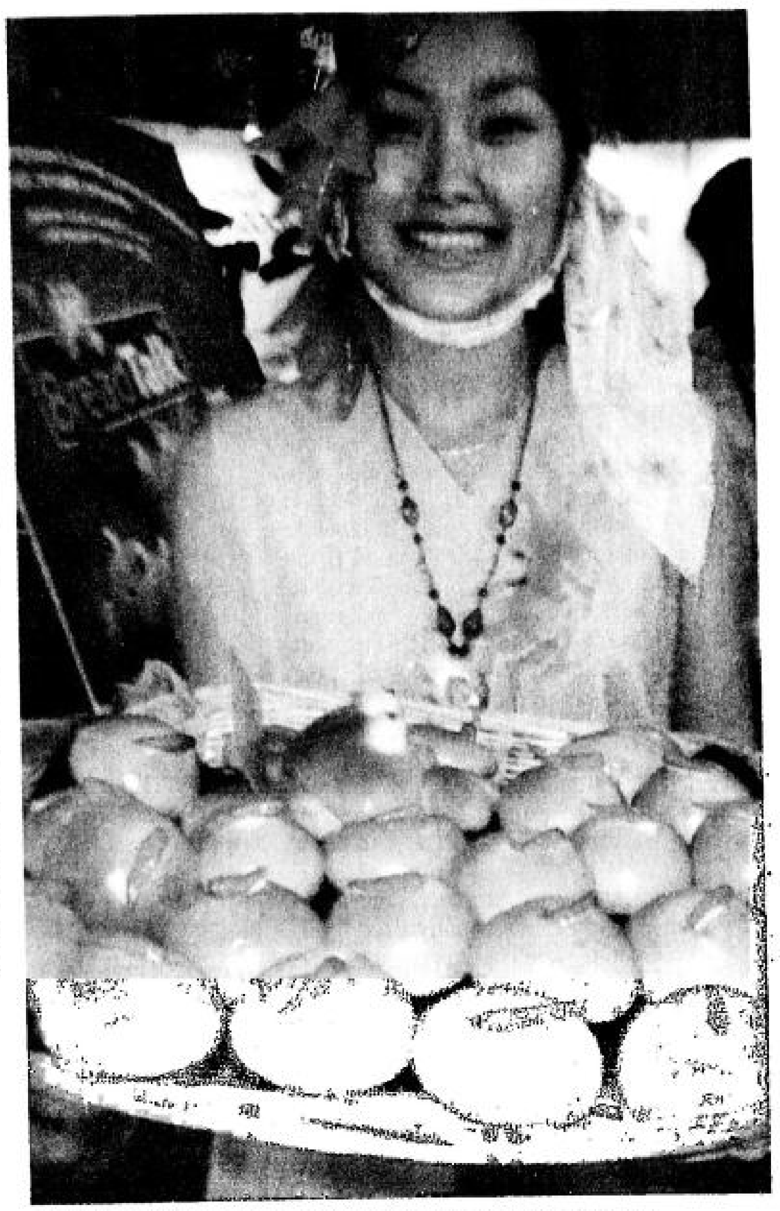
A preview of the Singapore Food Festival

To be held July 1-31, the event this year will have the crab for main ingredient

PERANAKAN wedding dishes



CRAB BUNS: The more practical way to eat crab is in buns.

By Michaela Fenix

THE SINGAPORE FOOD FESTIVAL will start in July but there was already such a festive atmosphere at main dining centers last week.

It could have been World Cup fever with games shown on huge screens, drawing expatriate crowds mostly to bars. Certainly, many food courts and restaurants were full.

But the food fest is one of the Singapore Tourism Board's yearly program enticements. This year's poster ingredient is the crab, so many activities are centered on the crustacean.

If one has been to Singapore often enough, it is chili crab that comes to mind when Singapore food is mentioned. During the festival, Singaporeans will vote on the 10 best restaurants that serve chili crab. Foreign guests will get gift vouchers so they can sample the dish for free. Chefs will also compete for the best chili crab version to go with Tiger beer, a major sponsor.

A press conference at the Orchard Hotel got a preview of those and other crab activities. Stalls gave samples of crab specialties.

A buffet was filled with numerous ways with crab that was tempting but was also quite limiting. How can one eat crabs standing up using only one hand because the other hand held the crustacean? Putting the crabs in buns proved to be a practical way to eat those though not as satisfying.

There were non-eating activities such as the crab dance and crab football. Entertaining but not as delicious.

Wedding feast, too

But there's more to Singaporean cooking than chili crab. So several previews were given through the four days of eating (and sampling the ongoing sale season).

To highlight the multicultural nature of Singapore, a wedding feast was staged at the Pariss Café of the Marina Square. Featured were Malay, Indian, Chinese and Peranakan (Singaporean intermarriage of Chinese and Malay) dishes usually served at weddings.

The Malays served chicken wings, the Indians had their mutton, the Chinese started with a four seasons cold platter and the Peranakan cooked a pork stew with a kind of dark nut they said was called *buah keluah*.

A PREVIEW of the crab buffet

Cooking demonstrations, which will also be part of the festival, were done at The Kitchen Culture by publishing director and author Pauline Loh and Gina Choong, both of the local Food Magazine. Choong talked on and made Hakka rice wine. The resulting must or rice residue was used for Red Wine Chicken (*Hongzhao Ji*) cooked by Loh that day.

The wine is made of glutinous rice and red yeast and is done by the Hakkas (a Chinese people without a home province and so are considered nomadic). Like our *buro*, novices may need time to appreciate this Hakka heritage recipe.

New dish

All Singapore Food Festivals have a "new dish creation" competition. We were brought to Peony Jade at the Clark Quay to sample the best seafood in the ethnic Chinese category, Singa Lobster in Golden Coconut. The Filipino delegation smiled as one of the ingredients was the *tumbong*, a small ball of coconut that grows occasionally inside the shell. It created quite a stir with guests who didn't know what it was.

MAXWELL CHICKEN: The remains of several Hainanese chicken orders at the Maxwell Market.

Executive chef Cheah Kok Lai knew his stuff and proved to all of us he deserved the award given at the press conference.

We skipped one breakfast at our hotel so we could taste at Toastbox the Singaporeans' preferences for their first meal of the day. The place (a BreadTalk company) is known for its bread toppings, such as the pork floss (*maho*) accompanied by soft-boiled egg that has to be taken with ground pepper. But there was also *otak otak* (fish cake) paired with *nasi lemak*, rice cooked with coconut milk served with a chili sauce and dried fish and wrapped in banana leaf. Coffee and tea were both taken with condensed milk, the ritual of pouring the milk done expertly behind the counter.

No tourist destination escapes the food festival program. Even the Night Safari has its own Gourmet Safari Express. Participants that evening might have drunk too much of the Singapore Sling served for cocktails as they asked guides if they were to be the gourmet meal for the wildlife they were about to see.

A special train was brought in dressed in zebra prints and with built-in tables. As the train rolled, appetizers of *rojak*, fruits and vegetables with peanut sauce and crabmeats fritters, dried cuttlefish and salmon sashimi were served. Midway through the tour, the train stopped at a kitchen station where the rest of our meal was served —*satay*, soup of chicken and abalone served *kuh the* style (boiled), Hainanese chicken rice and a dessert of white fungus, Peranakan cakes and a pineapple tart.

Organic surprise

The most surprising tour was at the Organic Farm which we thought wouldn't exist because of Singapore's very small land area. But there are farms out of the city past cemeteries and the army training camp. We got a lecture on the merits of not using pesticides for growing vegetables. The difficulty of going organic hasn't fazed the proprietor, Evelyn Eng Lim and her husband.

We walked with her around the rather small farm, surprised that one could eat the decorative ginger flower. Roxana Vasanwala gave a demo on how to make salad out of the farm produce.

Singapore cuisine will not be complete without the hawker food sites, designated places for cooking and selling what used to be street food. At the Maxwell Food Center, a buffet of favorite dishes is an everyday happening. Everything is cooked on site and what could be better?

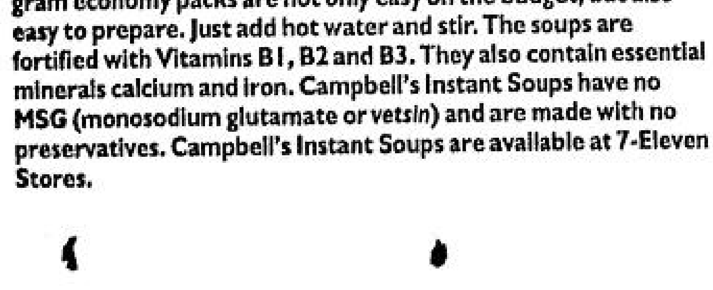
Its counterpart, the Newton Food Center, is moving back to its renovated site in time for the Food Festival. It's a great place not only to know and eat authentic and cheap Singaporean fare but also to meet characters such as the barkers who call you to eat at their stalls, the cooks who show off their expertise and the owners who are always voluble and, hence, good interview subjects.

Perhaps the latest and also quite a new touch to Singapore's night life is Crazy Horse, the show of French female nude dancers, a concept brought from Paris.

We had an early dinner of Continental cuisine at the restaurant, an opulent dining place with chandeliers and deep red interiors, to catch the 8 p.m. show. We were told we really needn't see the show but could just dine or wine at the Lounge. We were all intrigued by one name in the roster of Crazy Horse dancers, "Magandang Bulaklak." Who could that be as we were told there had been no Asian dancers?

We ended the preview with lunch at The StraitsKitchen of the Grand Hyatt, which was reviewed in the June 22 "Country Cooking" column. Too bad my two favorites were not there—fish head curry and *sotong*, fried sweetened tiny squid. They could have rounded off that visit.

Visit www.singaporefoodfestival.com.



NEW INSTANT SOUPS

Campbell's, which has been making soups for 125 years, has launched Campbell's Instant Soups in economical, single-serve sachets. The instant soups are available in flavors such as Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken and Cream of Corn. The new 22-gram economy packs are not only easy on the budget, but also easy to prepare. Just add hot water and stir. The soups are fortified with Vitamins B1, B2 and B3. They also contain essential minerals calcium and iron. Campbell's Instant Soups have no MSG (monosodium glutamate or *vetsin*) and are made with no preservatives. Campbell's Instant Soups are available at 7-Eleven Stores.

Asian-style dishes, rice cakes and cooking/baking basics

CLASSES

Halal cooking

Discover Halal cooking through Maya Kitchen. July 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Chicken Biryani, Kofta, Shiesh Kabab, Pulao, Carahi Chicken, Qormah. Also includes sourcing of Halal ingredients. July 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m, Japanese Cooking—including Miso soup, Mixed Tempura, Kamameshi, Assorted Sushi and Sashimi and Sukiyaki. July 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Italian Sampler—including Lasagna, Cannelloni, Ravioli, Carbonara, Oglio Olio, Puttanesca and Homemade Fresh Pasta. "Basic Culinary" will be taught July 4-7. "Fundamentals of Bakery Production," 9 a.m.-1 p.m., July 11-14, covers standard baking techniques, etc. "Advanced Cooking," 2-6 p.m., July 11-14, will include seasoning and flavoring, grand sauces and flavors, menu forms and functions, etc. Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108; or e-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph

Asian rice cakes

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes: June 30—Asian Rice Cakes: Kakanin 2—Kelepon, Coconut Rice Balls; Sticky Rice Cake in Brown Sugar Sauce; Thai Tha-Ko; Thai Sticky Rice and Mango; Khanom Chan; Karaoka. July 1—My Best Roasts Yet : Succulent Prime Rib of Beef and Pork, sauces, salad bar, sides and dessert. July 3—More of My Lola's Recipes: Chicken Relleno Soup, Bulalo, Pork Asado, Kaldereta, Lengua Estofada, Lola's Flan de Calabasa, Cassava Cake. July 5—Easy Entertaining with Wellington: Classic Beef Wellington with sauces (Bernaise, Mushroom and Madeira), Pork Wellington with Applesauce and Caramelized Squash, Lamb Wellington, Chicken and Spinach Wellington, Delicious Seafood Wellington. Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162.

Cake workshops

Dorothy's Cooking School will hold a Birthday Cake Workshop, July 3-5; and Fondant Cakes in Miniature Workshop, July 10-12. The birthday cake workshop will emphasize elegant and fancy cake borders while fondant cake class will focus on elegant cake decorating. Dorothy's Cooking School is owned by culinary expert Dorothy MJ Ferreria. Call 7217735, 7217749 and 4167968.

Seminars on food business

Registration is ongoing for ProActive Center's July seminars on "Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop" and "Managing a Catering Business Workshop." Call 6673369 or 0915-4315375.

Thai food fest

Festival Supermall presents Thai Food Festival June 30-July 2, at the Carousel Court on the second level. Proceeds of "A Delightful Day in Thailand," will go to the Munting Kalinga Foundation and Muntinlupa Day Care Center. Call 8503514.

WYNN Wynn Ong explains her Burmese spread.

THE BALACHAN must be present in every Burmese meal and is akin to *bagoong alamang*.

A table recalling Old Mandalay

From page C4

show up in the cooking.

That evening, we had four different curries, pointing to Indian influence since Burma used to be a province of India, although the flavors were also similar to Thai curries (the two countries are historical enemies).

There was traditional beef curry (*a me tha hin*) with crisp shallots. There was northern red pork curry (*wek thani hin*). The fish had brown curry (*nga tha lauk*). Really delicious, and worth going back for seconds, was the eggplant curry with dried prawn powder.

If anyone cared to look at my plate, it was an artist's palette with smudges of yellow, brown, red and orange, and an oily green piece.

The dishes said something about Burmese cooking as well as most Southeast Asian cuisine. First, if a dish has no sauce there should be a dipping sauce. For instance, the appetizers on long trays, *sayote* and abalone mushroom fritters, had a dip that everyone raved about—a mixture of roasted chili, garlic and coriander sauce. Second, salads are taken with the main courses to enhance and complement flavors. Third, some form of condiment should be present.

Must-have

This is why no Burmese meal is complete without the *balachan*. But, although each table had the *balachan*, it was easy to overlook it if you didn't know what it was because the colors blended with the containers.

Balachan is a condiment made with chilis, tamarind and dried shrimp mixed and pounded together, fried in peanut oil. More chili and then garlic and onions are added.

Taken by itself, which we did just to get the essence of Burmese eating, it is very much like our *bagoong*, only drier and not as salty. And, recalling that the recipe says dried shrimp, it is the *hibe*, of course, that makes it richer (consequently more expensive) than the shrimp fries of our *alamang bagoong*.

Wynn Wynn urged us to start from the salad side for which she made three kinds. There was the filling combination of cucumber and squid cake with sesame. Our hostess said she would have done the squid cakes herself if she had time. That sent me giggling because I couldn't even do that if my life depended on it.

There was the familiar green mango with shredded dried shrimp and roasted peanuts and the unfamiliar ginger salad that had very little tang.

We ended our meal with a coconut *pandan* gelatin dessert that was like the Thai *takoh* and Filipino *sapin-sapin*. The other, a strawberry soup, was certainly not akin to any Southeast Asian cooking. But our hostess explained it was an Indian dessert, the *faluda*.

At a recent potluck dinner, Wynn Wynn brought something that Filipinos could certainly identify with—roasted pork or *wek khauk kin* (don't pronounce the last "k", she instructed). While she called it the Burmese *lechon*, what was used was bone-in *liempo* (pork belly). Flavoring was just rock salt and *dayap* (local lime) to remove any *lansa* (unsavory smell and taste). The pork was then roasted in very low heat. At the last phase of cooking, heat should be high.

To illustrate, she said that three kilos of meat required three hours low heat and two hours high heat. So the more than three kilos she brought for dinner, she said, took her all day to do.

Again, Wynn Wynn looked none the worse for it.

> Similarities to and influences by its neighbors show up in Burmese cooking

Where to find organic markets

SUNDAYS, 7 A.M.-3 P.M.: Legaspi Sunday Market, behind Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas corner Gamboa Street, near AIM.

Thursdays, 7 a.m. - 12 nn: Alabang Town Center, in front of Corte de las Palmas and beside Commerce Avenue

Everyday: Rustan's Supermarket branches at Rockwell and Makati

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1. JUL 3 - 7 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC CAKE DECORATING - (P11,000 for whole course)
P4,000 - JUL 3 - 4 - Learn 10 diff. kinds of icing flowers, figure piping. Bake & decorate your basket weave cake using boiled icing
P2,750 - JUL 5 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers.
P4,500 - JUL 6 - 7 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers NEXT SCHED: AUG 7 - 11
2. JUL 8, 15 & 22 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING FOR DIABETIC
P3,000 - JUL 8 - Flaky (kaliskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie. NEXT SCHED: AUG 12
P3,000 - JUL 15 - Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread NEXT SCHED: AUG 19
P3,000 - JUL 22 - Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies, Baking for Diabetics NEXT SCHED: AUG 26
3. JUL 10 - 13 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - (P11,000)
New method on Gumpaste Flowers, Objects, Marzipan, Ribbon Insertion, Finest String Works, Lace Pieces, New Recipe of Fondant Chocolate Fondant NEXT SCHED: AUG 14 - 17
4. JUL 12 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - (P5,000)
Using Lace Mats, New Rolling Pin W/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilling NEXT SCHED: AUG 16
5. JUL 17 - 21 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P13,000. For whole course)
P2,600 - JUL 17 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,600 - JUL 18 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,850 - JUL 19 - Breads, pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & raisin bread.
P2,850 - JUL 20 - Pies, Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,600 - JUL 21 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons NEXT SCHED: AUG 21 - 25
6. JUL 17 - 21 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE. (P5,000)
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling; b) Rose, Catlleya, Cymbidium; c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes *"COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS (P10,000) by appointment"* NEXT SCHED: AUG 21 - 25
7. JUL 24 - 28 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P14,000. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,000 - JUL 24 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Decadence cake, Fan Torte cake, Fruit Torte cake
P3,000 - JUL 25 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistaschio cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.
P3,000 - JUL 26 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake
P3,000 - JUL 27 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake
P3,000 - JUL 28 - Merengues: Sansrival, Solothum, Queens Torte, Braso de Mercedez, Pineapple Merengue Pie.
NEXT SCHED: AUG 28 - SEPT 1 / FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL
8. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

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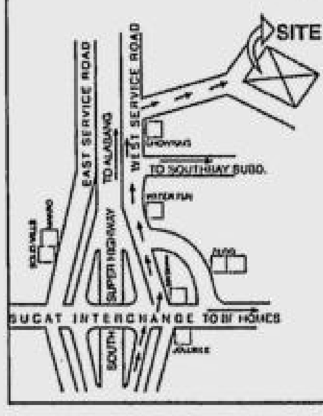

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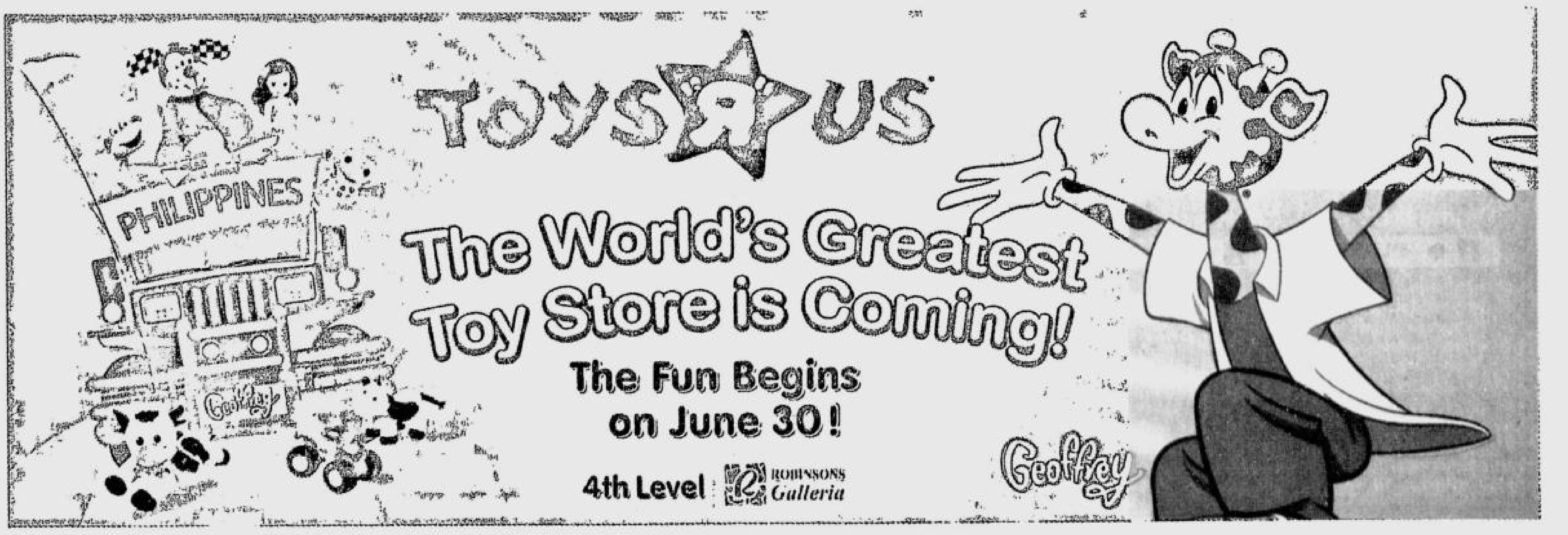

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A table recalling Old Mandalay

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

ENCOURAGED BY HOW readers liked the connection between our *sinigang* and the Malaysian *singgang*, I searched through my Southeast Asian eating experience and came up with our Burmese dinner cooked by Wynn Wynn Ong.

On the evening of our "Dinner in Old Mandalay," Wynn Wynn's cook was absent so she had to prepare everything by herself—16 dishes. She certainly looked none the worse after that seeming ordeal, as she appeared in a spiffy black number with a jeweled pin that was no doubt her own creation (Naga jewelry) gathering her silk blouse to one side.

But like all hostesses who have to see to dinner details, the tension was still there.

Wynn Wynn is Burmese but she moved here at a young age. This is why she has Filipino food memories such as guava jelly and butter pressed between two Skyflakes crackers.

To her and to many of us, too, the best part is when the jelly and butter mix starts oozing from the pinholes and we start licking the outer part of the crackers.

And, like many Filipinos, Spam is her comfort food. For the booklet "Comforting Cuisine" (IWFS Manila Ladies Branch, 2003), she specified that she preferred it "caramelized, hot and crisp around the edges."

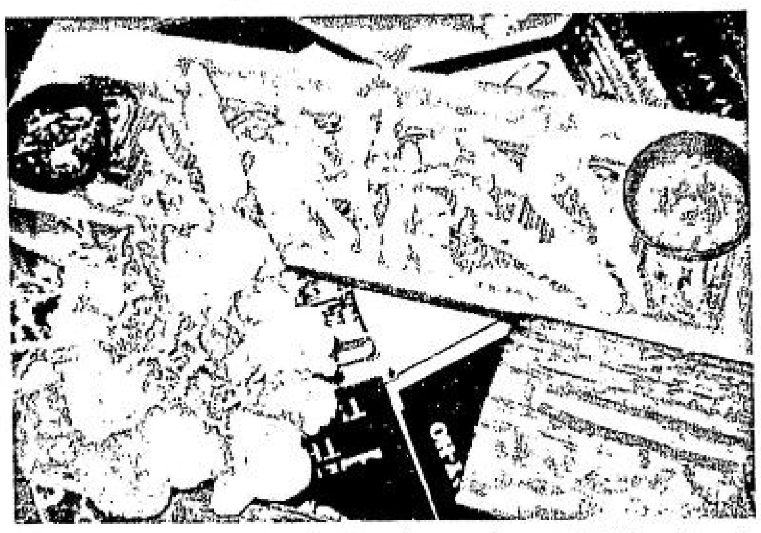
That essay also talked of her childhood in Austria where she learned to love potatoes in any form. Still, she remains Burmese at heart and goes back to her homeland when she can.

We experienced Mandalay right away in the way the table was set. The dominant colors were red and black, especially in the lacquered containers.

Wynn Wynn pointed to the roses, a mixture of red and saffron, the colors of the Burmese flag, she told us. She was lucky that the colors were available at her bargain flower shop, Dangwa in Manila, now better known as flower depot rather than bus station.

Burma (she prefers the old name to the new one, Myanmar) is surrounded by several countries. Similarities to its neighbors and influences by its neighbors

A TABLE/ C3



FRITTERS of *sayote* with a dipping mixture of roasted chili, garlic and coriander sauce

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Schedule of Classes: July 8 - August 14, 2006

"Shop, Cook & Learn" (Farmers Makret Tour and Cooking Class) July 8, July 29 *

"American Idol" (American Country Dishes) July 9, July 26 *

"Barbecue Galore" (African, Argentinean, Brazilian, and other Latin variations of Barbecues) July 9, July 26 *

"Chicken!" (Poultry 101) July 10, July 30 *

"Extra Soup Po" (Bisques, Chowders, Cream, Puree, and Potage) July 10, July 30

"Fish Tayo!" (Cooking with Fish) July 11, July 31 *

"Goodbye Deliveries!" (Pizza Making) July 11, July 31

"Great Wall of Farmers Market" (Chinese Cuisine) July 12, August 1 *

"Gutomakol" (Sushi Making) July 12, August 1 *

"Hamon ng Kampeon" (Ham Making) July 13, August 2 *

"Hoy Gising!" (Brunch and Breakfast Cookery) July 13, August 2 *

"Humpty Dumpty" (Table Eggs for Breakfast and Brunch) July 14, August 3

"I Feel Desserted..." (Quick and Easy Desserts) July 14, August 3

"Jewel in the Kitchen" (Korean Cuisine) July 15, August 4 *

"Kidding Aside" (Healthy Snacks for Kids) July 15, August 4

"Kulang Sa Pansit" (Traditional Pancit Variations) July 16, August 5

"Mediterranean Cruise" (Mediterranean Cuisine) July 16, August 5 *

"More Than You'll Ever Roast" (Roast Chicken 101) July 17, August 6 *

"My Gulay" (Salad Preparation) July 17, August 6 *

"Our Daily Bread" (Heavenly Bread Variations) July 18, August 7

"Pasta't Tayo'y Magkasama" (Various Pasta Dishes) July 18, August 7

"Pica-Pica Atbp. 1" (Tapas Made Easy) July 19, August 8 *

"Pica-Pica Atbp. 2" (Cocktail Dips, Dippers and Starters) July 19, August 8

"Piece of Cake!" (All-Time Favorite Cakes) July 20, August 9

"Pinoy Ako" (Popular Filipino Recipes) July 20, August 9 *

"Pinoy Ako Dessert Edition" (Filipino Desserts and Treats) July 21, August 10

"Quest for the Holy Grill" (Grilled Poultry, Beef, Pork, and Seafoods) July 21, August 10 *

"Soy Bellssima!" (Paella and Risottos) July 22, August 11 *

"SurpRice!" (Different Ways of Rice Cookery) July 22, August 11 *

"Temptation Island" (Various Chocolate Treats) July 23, Agust 12

"The Coconut Nut" (Cooking With Coconut) July 23, August 12 *

"Top of the World" (Stir-Fried Combos with Rice Toppings) July 24, August 13 *

"Vietnam Rolls" (Vietnamese Cuisine) July 24, August 13 *

"Which Sandwich?" (Different Ways of Preparing Sandwiches) July 25, August 14

"Who Stole the Cookie From the Cookie Jar?" (Bars, Cookies, and Fabulous Munchies) July 25, August 14

* *Course includes Farmers Market Tour*

COURSE FEE	Php1,980 per one-day course
INCLUSIONS	Ingredients for all featured recipes Recipe handouts, Toques, and apron

"Course and schedules are subject to change without prior notice"

For schedules and other details, please contact:
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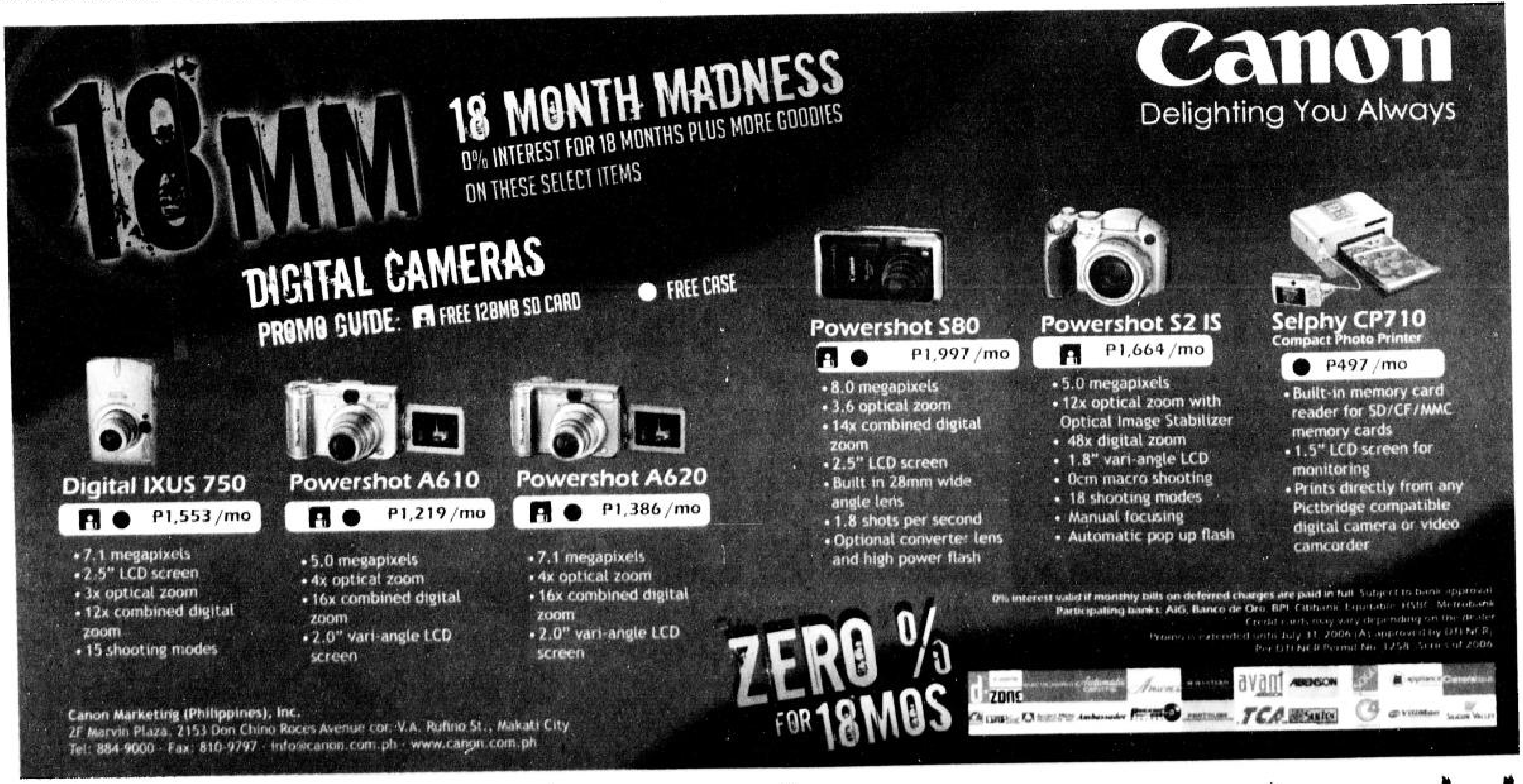

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